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Kent on Sunday

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Mid edition No 760

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Countdown to May 4 local elections continues

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Don't let Easter message be lost behind chocolate

RELIGION is a funny old chestnut to put it rather mildly. You would, perhaps, be forgiven that thinking in the 21st century - an era in which we proclaim our glory in technological and scientific breakthroughs on an almost daily basis - we would no longer see religion having such an influence on us.

Yet whether you are a devout whatever, or a committed atheist, any hopes that as a global community we have moved on from our cultures being so defined by belief in something which can never be proved - or indeed disproved - seems further away than ever.

Of course, religion can be an enormous force for good - a basic set of guidelines of morality and compassion which not only can help guide us through life, but also offers us comfort when it comes to the inevitable death which awaits us all.

You could, of course, argue that actually the

disruption to peace in the world is as much a clash of cultures and ideology as religious belief, yet so often it is easier to lump the two together and, as a result, it creates a rather toxic blend.

This weekend is one of the most precious in our predominantly Christian community and one where the religious message and story has been hidden behind a cascade of images of chocolate shapes and fluffy bunnies.

And while for many that's not a bad thing, there is a danger that in pursuit of satisfying our proud

British value of inclusiveness to all, we are actually losing a key plank around which this nation was created.

In truth, our nation's approach to our own traditional faith is perhaps the healthiest of all - the trick is to ensure it remains at that level and doesn't slip from view altogether.

Here's hoping you all have a happy Easter.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

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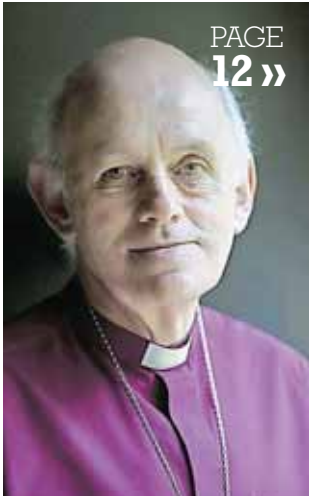
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HOW TO CONTACT US...

Editor: Chris Britcher
Email chris.britcher@archant.co.uk
Address: Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP
Editorial: News: 01233 653475
Sport/Leisure: 01233 653479
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising:
Jobs/Notices: 01233 653461
Business: 01233 653461
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Retail/Leisure/Motors: 01233 653461
Email sales@kosmedia.co.uk
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Nuttall insists 'anything is possible' with airport

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

UKIP leader Paul Nuttall has hinted Manston Airport could yet have a future after claiming "anything is possible" on a visit to the county this week.

Addressing members and supporters in Margate to drum up support for the party ahead of next month's county council elections, Mr Nuttall told crowds Kent was "the heart of Ukip" and urged voters not to be dismayed by the Manston saga in recent months.

The party swept to victory in 2015 as it claimed control of its first ever council in Thanet, largely, many believe, on an election pledge to re-open the airport. But two years on and the airport has been sold to developers sparking fury from campaigners who say the party has reneged on its promises - something denied by council leader Chris Wells who says no such promise was ever made.

A number of councillors defected from the party just months after it won a majority in the chamber, before an independent report last year concluded airport operations



NUTTALL: But have voters in Thanet already been let down by the local council to turn to Ukip again?

at Manston were "very unlikely to be financially viable in the longer term and almost certainly not possible in the period to 2031 [when the council's local plan ends]".

The report was considered by plenty to be a potentially fatal blow to plans to get planes flying once again, and Tory MP for South Thanet Craig Mackinlay called for Cllr Wells to resign over the row.

Speaking to KoS, Mr Nuttall suggested the battle for aviation-

only use at Manston was far from over.

He said: "I'm not sure where we are with it but I listen to my local councillors on the ground like Chris Wells and we'll have to see where we go with that one. What I will say is that anything is possible."

Mr Nuttall's coy comments followed speeches by both himself and Cllr Wells, in which the latter revealed a third party was now

coming forward with proof of funds, in a bid to re-open the airport. Cllr Wells has refused to reveal who that is.

Manston has been renamed the Stone Hill Park project - which aims to deliver 2,500 homes and leisure facilities. Developers claim work could begin as early as this year - a suggestion laughed off by Thanet North MP Sir Roger Gale.

• **Full election coverage - see pages 14-17.**

Judge orders psychiatric tests before sentencing stalker of DJ Sara Cox

A MENTALLY-ill man who sent DJ Sara Cox a series of creepy letters was caught with a hoard of images showing horrific child abuse when he was arrested, a court heard.

Anthony Collins, from Chatham, repeatedly posted letters handwritten in felt-tip pen to the BBC presenter and her husband, calling her "sexy" and "attractive".

The 49-year-old told Cox he was not loved by anyone and was severely mentally disturbed, and begged her to invite him to visit her at her studio. But when police raided his home in February they found a stash of child pornography images in a bedside drawer, Maidstone Crown Court was told.

Prosecuting, Mary Jacobson said Collins, who has a long history of harassing young girls and breaching restraining orders, had admitted one charge of harassment, two of making indecent images of children and two of possessing indecent images of children.

Ms Jacobson told the court Collins,

who is being held in prison, had said he was attracted to the 42-year-old DJ and "wanted to be in the news", and that he "wants help" over his sexual interests as he "can't help what he does".

The court heard Cox, referred to by her married name Cyzer, opened an envelope at her London home on January 24, which she recognised as similar to one she received a year earlier.

Collins apologised for writing to her home address, which he bought off the internet for £17, but went on to call her a "lovely, warm, kind, wonderful human being", who was "sexy" and "attractive".

When he was arrested on February 10 police found a fake BBC pass, a printed map of the address of the presenter's sister, and a document on farming, which he was going to send to Cox's father, a farmer.

The judge ordered Collins, of Afghan Road, to undergo a psychiatric report to assess his dangerousness before he can be sentenced.

Check before you travel on the rails this long weekend

TRAVELLERS planning to use Kent's rail network over the Easter long weekend are being advised to check their route in advance as major engineering work is set to cause headaches for many.

In addition to no services in or out of Charing Cross, Waterloo East, London Bridge or Cannon Street on Friday or Saturday, major repairs on the Sevenoaks tunnel

will mean no services operating between Sevenoaks and Tonbridge until Monday.

Track maintenance is also going to cause problems between Paddock Wood and Strood from late on Saturday to the early hours of Monday.

Meanwhile, work will also mean no services operating between Sittingbourne and Herne Bay or Dover on Easter Day.

Movie opens over audacious £25m Hatton Garden crime

A FILM depicting the daring Hatton Garden jewellery raid - which took place two years ago this weekend - has opened at cinemas.

The Hatton Garden Job stars Phil Daniels and Larry Lamb as the heist's mastermind, Dartford's Brian Reader, 76.

In April 2015, the Hatton Garden Safe Deposit Company, was raided and £25m in loot pinched after

crooks drilled through the thick walls to access the safety deposit boxes - many stashed with jewels stored by the nearby jewellery dealers.

The case gained national attention, not only for the value of the raid and its execution, but also because of the age of those involved.

Reader, known as 'The Guv'nor' was jailed for six years and three months for his part in the raid.



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Prosecutor's firm vow on domestic violence

KENT's most senior prosecutor has vowed to do "everything we can" to support victims of domestic violence as they bring their cases to court.

Jaswant Narwal, chief Crown prosecutor for CPS South East, was speaking at a family wellbeing conference held in Dartford which aimed to raise awareness of domestic violence in the Christian community.

Narwal said: "We understand how difficult it is for those who experience domestic violence to come forward and our message is that we will do everything we can to support you through the process.

"Victims are at the heart of everything we do and anyone called as a witness now has additional support through our 'speaking to witnesses at court' scheme."



BACK: The new team

First pictures of all-new Bake Off team

THE judges and presenters for the Great British Bake Off have united for the first official picture ahead of the new series launching on Channel 4.

Among them are Kent duo Paul Hollywood, who lives near Canterbury, and Sandi Toksvig who has a home in Herne Bay. They are joined by judge Prue Leith and presenter Noel Fielding.

The show, a traditional ratings big hitter on the BBC, was sensationally snatched by Channel 4 after producers Love Productions signed a big money deal - thought to be worth £75m over three years - to switch channels.

That prompted judge Mary Berry and presenters Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins to announce they were quitting. Only Mr Hollywood remains of the original cast.

Filming on the new series - which puts 12 amateur bakers against each other in the beloved Bake Off tent - will get under way this month at its regular home in Newbury, Berkshire.

Last year, more than 14 million people - the biggest for a non-sporting event in 2016 - tuned in to watch Candice Brown be crowned the winner.

Previous winners include Nadiya Hussain and John Whaite, who have both gone on to have successful cookery and media careers.

'Death' fears as stroke services shifted out of the Kent & Canterbury

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

HEALTH campaigners insist nurses have told them they fear patients will die after a struggling hospital suffered another setback this week.

Patients suspected of having a stroke will not be taken to the Kent & Canterbury Hospital but instead directed straight to the QEOM in Margate or William Harvey in Ashford in a bid to ensure they are seen by specialist doctors straight away.

Once patients local to Canterbury have recovered from the acute phase of their stroke at Ashford or Margate, they will be able to move to the K&C to continue their recovery and rehabilitation journey, closer to home.

Hospital bosses stress these are temporary changes being implemented to ensure hospital services remain safe.

It follows the announcement last month that more than half of the junior doctors at the Canterbury site will have to move to other sites in Ashford



MOVE: Canterbury's hospital

and Margate, due to a lack of permanent consultant doctors who oversee and support their training.

Dr David Hargroves, clinical lead for stroke medicine for the East Kent Hospitals University NHS Founda-

tion Trust, explains: "The safety of patients is our utmost priority.

"We need patients to be seen in the place they will get the most appropriate treatment which means, for the moment, hyper acute stroke patients being treated at Ashford and Margate for the first few days of their care. Most patients return home within 14 days.

"It is better for patients to be treated in the place which is able to provide the specialist care they need, which is not necessarily the nearest hospital."

However, campaigners at Concern for Health in East Kent (CHEK), claim distressed staff have told the group there could soon be fatalities.

Chairman Ken Rogers said: "We have had conversations with nurses that are worried that the rehabilitation of patients transferred back to the K&C could deteriorate quickly and, without doctor support, could die."

The trust insists the move is being made to maximise patient safety and insists no permanent changes would be made without public consultation.

Car transporter in horror A299 smash

A PEDESTRIAN standing next to a parked car off the carriageway of the A299 Thanet Way was killed after being hit by a car transporter.

The man, a 54-year-old understood to live locally, was standing next to a grey Porsche Boxster at around 9am on Monday when he was struck by the Scania car transporter on the London-bound carriageway near Dargate.

Police officers and ambulance crews attended but the man was pronounced dead at the scene.

As a result, the road was shut in both directions between the Brenley Corner junction and the A290 turnoff for Whitstable.

The coastbound carriageway re-opened swiftly but the London-bound closure remained in place for some 12 hours.

Officers want to hear from anyone who saw the crash or the car transporter or the man standing next to the Porsche immediately prior to the collision. Anyone with information can call the appeal line on 01622 798538.

Gordon Ramsey's brother-in-law in court

CELEBRITY chef Gordon Ramsay's Kent-based brother-in-law has admitted computer hacking.

Adam Hutcheson, 46, from Sevenoaks, was charged under Operation Tuleta with conspiring to cause a computer to access programs and data without authority.

His father Chris Hutcheson, 68, and siblings Orlanda Butland, 45, and Chris Hutcheson Jr, 37, also faced the same charge.

They appeared at the Old Bailey before Judge Gerald Gordon and spoke to confirm their identities.

The defendants pleaded guilty apart from Ms Butland, who denied the charge. The prosecution accepted the pleas and offered no evidence in relation to Ms Butland.

Hutcheson Sr is the father of Ramsay's wife, Tana. The charges relate to an alleged plot to hack of the computer system at Gordon Ramsay Holdings Ltd between October 23, 2010 and March 31, 2011.

The judge said all sentencing options were open. He adjourned sentencing to June 2.

Christening row in adoption case

A COUNCIL social worker who told a couple that it might be harder to place their baby son for adoption if he was christened has been criticised by a family court judge.

She said adoption attempts might be hindered if the little boy, now about 15 months old, was "christened into the Christian faith".

Judge Richard Scarratt said her comments were "regrettable".

Details of the case have emerged in a ruling by the judge following a private family court hearing in Chatham.

Judge Scarratt has not named the social worker but said she worked for Kent County Council.

The judge said council bosses should hold an internal inquiry into the social worker's conduct.

He added the council had apologised to the couple but he said the apology had been "too late and inadequate".

He has not identified the family involved. The child is now living with relatives.

Bagpuss' Emily in fresh pet adventure as dog stuck in pipe

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

EMILY Firmin - famed for her role in children's classic Bagpuss - had to call in fire crews to rescue her pet dog after it bolted up a drain-pipe while chasing a rabbit.

Rescue teams then had to cut the pipe to free both creatures who had got stuck.

Ms Firmin, who lives in Whitstable, was famously the little girl who owned Bagpuss and is pictured stroking the famous cat in the much-repeated show, first broadcast in the 1970s.

It was created by her father, Peter Firmin, who lives in Blean, and the late Oliver Postgate - who lived nearby. Mr Firmin was on hand to watch the drama unfold.

Quite what Bagpuss would have made of the commotion in Blean is anyone's guess.

Two-year-old Domino, a chihuahua-Jack Russell cross, had spotted the rabbit and both then got stuck in the pipe.

After efforts to coax the animals out failed, crews used a saw to create a big enough gap in the plastic pipe to see if they could reach Domino.

Canterbury crew manager, Lee Divers said: "When we arrived we had to try and gain access to the pipe at different places to be able to find Domino, so we created several



RELIEVED: Emily and Peter Firmin - who made a donation to the fire service charity

trenches and cut away at the pipe, which was full of mud and silt. Once we'd created the holes, it helped give the rabbit the direction to escape and Domino followed."

Domino and the rabbit travelled about 50 metres along the pipe. Eventually both emerged where the pipe flowed into a pond.

Both were a little subdued by the whole experience. Explained Ms Firmin: "The crew were amazing, I can't thank them enough. We didn't think we'd get her out of the pipe, but what they did was extensive and they

were even able to pull the rabbit out too - you could call them magician firefighters."

Mr Divers added: "We saw a pair of eyes appear and thought it was Domino - then out hopped the rabbit. But Domino wasn't far behind."

Adds Ms Firmin: "I've got nothing but praise and thanks for the crews - they were absolutely brilliant. I'm now going to be extra careful with Domino - I know how quick she is at chasing rabbits. I'll be keeping her on the lead from now on."

Pub vows to clean up act after violence

A PUB in Leysdown has agreed to take steps to reduce disruption after four people were injured in a fight last weekend, prompting police to demand its licence be reviewed.

The Talk of the Town agreed plastic glasses will be used at the premises after 6pm, security will be improved, use of pool tables in the evening limited and CCTV boosted. A further review is scheduled for May.

Sparrowhawk stuns shoppers at castle

RSPCA inspectors spent the best part of an hour trying to free a bird of prey who tried to make Dover Castle its new home this week.

A sparrowhawk flew into the castle's gift shop on Monday afternoon while chasing a pigeon.

But once inside, the bird couldn't get out, and the pigeon it was chasing escaped unharmed.

Golden girl's cop job

PARALYMPIC gold medallist Charlotte Evans, 26, from Chatham has been appointed ambassador for the volunteer police cadet scheme.

She was sight guide for blind skier Kelly Gallagher at the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games.

She will be the point of contact for the young cadets, ensuring their welfare and giving people guidance in taking part in a variety of activities.

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Spotlight shone on county's biggest public sector earners

MORE employees are raking in £100,000 a year at Kent County Council than any other local authority in the south east, according to new figures.

The data, compiled by the TaxPayers' Alliance, shows some 26 staff members at KCC pocketed six-figure remuneration packages during the last financial year - more than anywhere else in the region and the sixth highest in the country.

The KCC chiefs taking home more than £150,000 includes the director of governance and law and corporate directors for customer and communities, business strategy and support, families and social care, education learning and skills, growth, environment and transport, finance and procurement and human resources. KCC



insists it is one of Kent's biggest employers and "must retain and attract the very best people".

Meanwhile, Medway Council's chief executive and directors of public health, children and adult

services and regeneration, community and culture all earned more than £150,000 in 2014/15, though the latter's packet did drop to a more modest £137,889 the following year.

Mental health care 'on journey to outstanding'

KENT's mental health trust has been given an improved rating of 'good' by inspectors.

England's chief inspector of hospitals has found that the services provided by Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) have improved following the latest inspection by the health watchdog, Care Quality Commission.

Two years ago, CQC rated the trust as 'requires improvement' after inspectors identified significant variation in the quality of its services.

As a result of the latest inspection in January, the trust has been rated as 'good' overall, and 'outstanding' for being caring.

However, safety is rated as 'requires improvement'.

CQC's deputy chief inspector

of hospitals, and lead for mental health, Dr Paul Lelliott, said: "It is clear that the trust had taken feedback from our previous inspection and responded positively to the concerns we raised."

Trust chief executive, Helen Greatorex, said: "This result is so very well deserved by every single member of KMPT staff, it is fantastic recognition and reflects the organisation that I joined in June last year."

"One of the most striking things about us as an organisation is the genuine warmth and kindness that is everywhere."

"We appreciate that we still have work to do and will continue to work with our partners to make sure we further improve on our journey to outstanding."

Popular entertainer dies

TRIBUTES have been paid to actor and entertainer Alan Bowman, a regular on the Kent holiday centre scene in the 1970s and 80s, who has died. He was 71.

He primarily worked in Golden Sands at St May's Bay during a stint stretching from 1976 to 1983.

Tumble dryer fire alert

A TUMBLE dryer sparked a fire in a nursery in Rochester on Thursday morning.

Emergency crews arrived swiftly on the scene to prevent the fire in the utility room in the building in Castle View Road from spreading.

No one was injured.

Jail for child sex offences

A 26-year-old from Margate has been jailed for 16 years after being found guilty of child sex offences between 2007 and 2008.

James McCaw, was sentenced at Canterbury Crown Court for attempted rape, rape, assault of a child, sexual assault of a child and two counts of inciting a child to engage in sexual activity.

Birds stolen from aviary

TWENTY birds from an aviary - including canaries, bullfinches and goldfinches - have been stolen after a burglary in Ashford.

Police were called to a property in the Stanhope area of the town after a rear garden was broken into and the birds swiped.

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Roads strain at holiday end

By Emily King

emily.king@archant.co.uk

BRACE yourself for packed roads tomorrow (Monday) as millions flood back home after the long Easter weekend.

Our key roads are set to be slow across the weekend, but after the big getaway on Friday, the pinch point looks set to be Monday.

And with schools going back on Tuesday, it could be worse than normal. About 20 million car journeys will be made between Thursday and Monday across the UK.

Highways England advised drivers to allow extra time for their journeys and suggested they consider alternative routes.

Tourism body Visit England said 6.6 million Britons are planning a trip involving an overnight stay over the weekend, up from six million last year.

Tourism minister and Chatham and Aylesford MP Tracey Crouch said: "Staycations are integral to our thriving tourism industry, providing a significant boost to cities, towns, villages and communities across the country."

The AA predicted a slight drop in the number of people heading away at the start of the weekend due to



POPULAR: Roads to our beach resorts are likely to be busy all weekend

Easter coming so late in the school holidays, but the rush to return on Monday could put strain on both our roads and ports.

John Snowling, AA patrol of the year, advises: "Despite fewer people planning to get away with Easter falling quite late this year, there will still be a lot of pressure on the main routes, particularly from coastal re-

gions and Channel ports."

Eurotunnel and ferry firms P&O and DFDS are advising passengers to book in advance if using their services this weekend to prevent disappointment.

The weather is not going to live up to last weekend's highs, however. Forecasters predict temperatures hovering around the 12-13 mark to-

day (Sunday) and tomorrow, with some rain showers expected today.

A Met Office spokesman said: "It's going to stay rather cool throughout. Sunday will start dry, cloudy and breezy, with patchy rain later. Monday will be cloudy but sometimes bright, with light winds and showers. Tuesday will start cold, and then be dry and sunny."

Labour big gun in town

SHADOW chancellor John McDonnell promised the Labour Party will invest in essential communications and energy infrastructure in Kent on a visit to the county last weekend.

He hit the campaign trail in Gravesend ahead of next month's county council elections.

He told members and supporters Labour: "Labour is the only party that are serious about achieving the investment that is needed to restore pride and prosperity to Kent and we will take back control of our railways."

The elections take place on May 4.

Bruno weighs in at manor

FORMER heavyweight champion of the world Frank Bruno was the first guest at Ashford's Eastwell Manor spa hotel last week as it prepared to open its doors to the public following an £8m revamp.

The star proved he was fighting fit again after years of mental health problems – thanks to a gruelling workout and wellbeing regime at the health resort, recently taken over by Champneys.

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For whom the tunnel tolls as link is confirmed

It was no surprise, but the battle over the the route of the long-awaited Lower Thames Crossing could yet rage on

By Luke May & Tom Pyman
luke.may@archant.co.uk

TRANSPORT secretary Chris Grayling says it is "likely" motorists will have to pay to use the £6 billion Lower Thames Crossing, when it eventually opens between 2025 and 2027.

This week saw the government finally confirm what everyone expected with its support for what was known as Option C - a tunnel going under the Thames east of Gravesend.

Welcomed by those in Dartford - fearful that a crossing there would add intolerable strain to its already crippled road network - opponents in neighbouring Gravesham say they have not ruled out fighting the decision.

Also announced by the Department for Transport was a £10 million package of measures to improve Dartford's existing roads.

The route will see motorists come along the M2 and onto the A2 near Shorne before joining a new link road. It will then travel under the Thames emerging east of Tilbury. It

will then cross the A13 at Orsett before linking up with the M25.

Estimates suggest it could carry up to 4.5 million heavy goods vehicles in its first year, and go some way towards easing the strain at Dartford. Business leaders, who have long pushed for another crossing, praised the announcement.

Christian Brodie, chairman of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (Selep), said: "This is excellent news for Kent and Essex and will have a significant economic impact. With the current Dartford Crossing already operating at capacity and freight traffic continuing to grow, the new crossing will also support the government's wider economic aspirations for the Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Engine."

However, critics have blasted the decision.

Conservative councillor Bryan Sweetland, who represents Gravesham Rural, resigned from Kent County Council's cabinet after it supported Option C and this week warned the new tunnel was not the solution.



FUTURE: Computer generated image of how the tunnel will look when it is finally completed

He told KoS: "I'm not surprised because Option C was decided on 18 months or two years ago, and I don't really see how they could announce anything else."

"It's concerning for the people of Gravesend and the people of Dartford because I'm quite convinced putting it here will not improve anything for the next 10 years."

"It will take the best part of a decade to build, and by then there will be a need for another crossing to replace the tunnels."

He said the campaigners' fight wasn't over, but there would need to be a period of reflection before declaring their next move.

"We have to look at the announcement in more detail," he said.

"I can't speak on behalf of all Gravesham councillors, but they have made £150,000 available for a judicial review."

"However, they will have to take legal advice as to whether it is possible or practical with a slim chance of winning."

"But people feel disappointed because the consultation was a complete sham, it didn't consult on Option A [another crossing at Dartford] at all."

"There's a long way to go and KCC have done some work to try and mitigate some of the huge environmental impact."

"In this modern period of austerity, though, I feel the government could have spent £6bn more wisely."

In somewhat farcical scenes on Wednesday afternoon, the transport secretary arrived over an hour late to publicly discuss the announcement in Dartford after getting snarled up in traffic.

He told KoS motorists seem set to have to pay for the crossing through a toll.

He said: "It is likely it will be a toll tunnel, but it's going to be something for the next government to decide."

He also explained how the £10m to

improve Dartford's roads would be spent.

He said: "That will be relatively quick. Highways England now will take that forward as quickly as possible, this is small scale improvements to traffic junctions."

"I've also looked at mitigation measures being put in beyond that £10m particularly sensitive to people in the Dartford area. When there's a problem on the motorway it ripples around the area, so we can look to see if there's anything we can do to improve Dartford and keep the local road network a bit more separate from the motorway."

Another opponent to Option C was Bob Lane. He told KoS the government had been "hoodwinked" by a "biased" Highways England consultation on the crossing which seemed to dismiss the potential of Option A.

Mr Grayling dismissed the claims as wrong, saying: "I really wanted to be confident in my own mind that the crossing we put forward this week was better, rather than putting in place a bridge or tunnel at Dartford."

"I've challenged Highways England, I've been and looked at the route for the crossing to the east, I've been very careful to make sure this is the right decision and I believe that it is."

Before the decision, councillors in Gravesham had discussed the possibility of taking up a judicial review against Highways England's consultation.

But chief executive of Highways England Jim O'Sullivan said he expected no such challenge.

He explained: "One of the reasons it took so long for a decision is because we took the consultation seriously. We had discussions with the secretary of state about changing one of the routes slightly east to avoid homes, which we thought served the local communities better, so we think we've done a very thorough job."

Option B - a route via the Swanscombe peninsula had been dropped

several years ago amid concerns it would shatter hopes of the much-discussed London Paramount Resort entertainment complex being built.

Dartford MP Gareth Johnson welcomed the news.

He said: "This is possibly the most significant decision affecting Dartford in a generation."

"It would have been catastrophic for Dartford if we had lost this argument. Locating the Lower Thames Crossing east of Gravesend is the right approach and I am pleased the government has agreed. This decision gives motorists a choice and will provide resilience for the road network."

"It will of course take approximately 10 years to complete and so we will not experience the full benefit until then but the prospect of having hugely disruptive roadworks in Dartford over the next decade has been lifted."

"For more than a decade there has been uncertainty about where this crossing would be placed. Now the decision has been made we must get on with the task of building it."

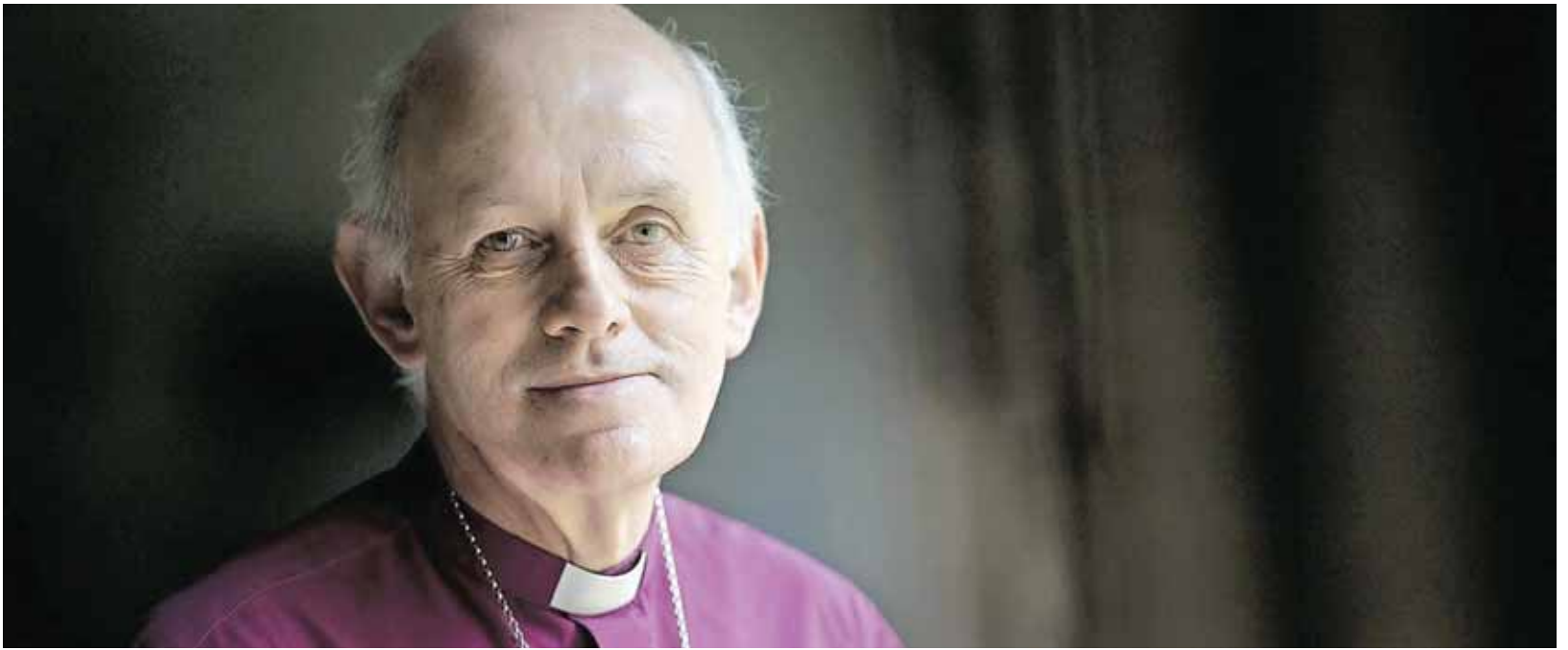
A spokesperson from Gravesham Borough Council added: "At present we are digesting the announcement and technical material. We will be considering the impact the announced route will have on Gravesham's residents and environment and pressing hard for measures to mitigate the most harmful aspects of the selected option."

The announcement had originally been expected last year but was delayed. It was then due to be announced late last month. However, the Westminster attacks the day before scuppered the government's plans and it was finally unveiled on Wednesday.

■ What do you think of the route? Join the debate and share your views. Email us at editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or write to: The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP.



DECISION: Chris Grayling at Dartford on Wednesday after turning up late



MESSAGE: A special Easter message from the Bishop of Dover.

Picture: Ady Kerry.

Why power of the resurrection should prompt a transformation

The Bishop of Dover

The Rt Revd Trevor Willmott

SHOCK. Amazement. Disbelief. Fear.

When Jesus' disciples discovered that their Lord had risen from the dead you could've knocked them over with a feather.

They went to Jesus' grave to observe the rituals of their grief – to anoint Christ's body, to do what was required of them – not because that would make anything better, it was simply what you did in such situations.

Yet they found themselves confronted with an empty tomb and heavenly messengers declaring the words that changed everything: "He is not here. He is risen."

I think it's a tragedy that we've become so comfortable with the Easter story that it somehow fails to surprise us anymore. We've heard the story too many times, we know the ending – and over time the resurrection becomes something we sit easily with, something that seems to make sense – our fairy tale 'happy ever after'.

That's how the story always ends... right?

We fail to stand amazed at the empty tomb. We shrug off Christ's death as if it were mere inconvenience – play-acting, rather than a concrete ending.

But dead people simply do not come back to life. No matter how hard we hope and wish it were otherwise, it doesn't happen today and it didn't happen back in first century Palestine.

There's nothing more final than death – or so we tend to think.

The resurrection is a scandal, a contradiction of the way we know the world works. And yet there Christ is; standing before his friends, speaking, eating, showing them his battle scars. A living, breathing contradiction.

Jesus changes everything. Forget what you thought you knew about life and death.

Believing in the resurrection is not just a form of optimism – an 'it'll be alright in the end'. It's deeper and broader and far more demanding than that.

The story of Jesus rising from the tomb should stop us dead in our tracks. We must unlearn our weariness with the narrative, hear it for what it truly is. We must follow our feet and stand astonished with the disciples at the empty tomb, for truly, there is no such thing as a 'lost cause' in God's kingdom, nothing is beyond redemption.

This sounds like an audacious claim because, frankly, that's precisely what it is.

The resurrection is anything but humdrum.

Nor is resurrection just about putting things back to how they were before. Jesus endured torture and death before he could come out the other side, and his resurrected body bore the scars and the weight of that reality.

His resurrection didn't 'undo' death as though it had never happened – he was revived, restored, but also somehow changed.

So it is when we experience a dramatic turnaround in our own lives – the healed body does not forget its illness, the mother reunited with her child does not forget the pain of separation. Instead of superficially 'fixing' what was broken, resurrection de-

mands nothing less than transformation: transformation of body, of spirit, of relationship.

And resurrection isn't just God's business – it's ours too, if we choose to follow him.

An invitation to follow Jesus is an invitation to take up one's cross, to walk the dark and difficult road to where, apparently, it all ends. But it's also an invitation to share in Christ's resurrection life and body.

The Church is often referred to as 'the body of Christ' in the world today.

If we are to take this designation seriously, we must act like the body of Christ – like those who have endured pain and suffering in the service of others, but who have also experienced God's resurrection, the transformation of our own lives.

And such transformation is never a purely personal affair – it must be for the greater good, the wider community: transformed people naturally offer transformation to others. We are called to nothing less than this: to live lives transformed by God's audacious love so that those around us may know resurrection, transformation and hope.

For that I offer this prayer this Easter:

God of lost causes and no hoppers, Fix in our hearts the scandal of the resurrection.

Astonish us with your power and love, So that we may be challenged anew to live transformed lives

For the sake of your kingdom. Amen.

CROWDS FLOCK FOR EASTER WORSHIP

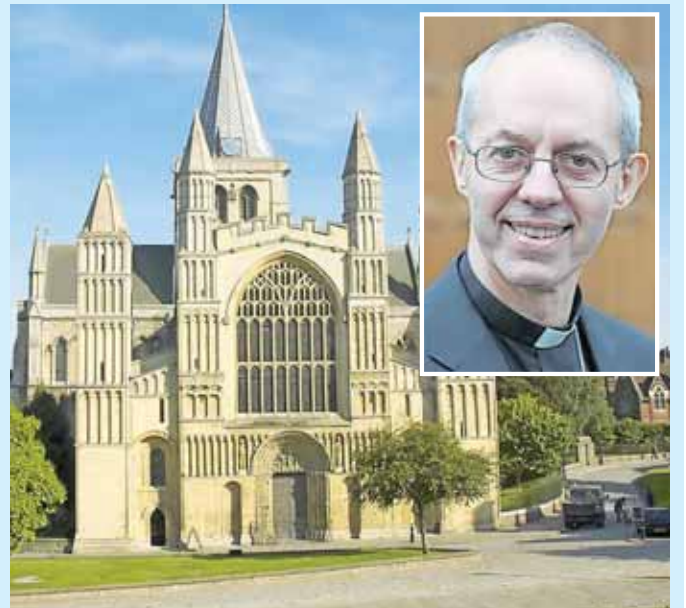
THOUSANDS of church goers are set to flock to places of worship today for what is traditionally one of the best attended in the Christian calendar.

Special Easter services – many of them family friendly – will be taking places in churches across the county with some major events taking place at our cathedrals.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, will preach his Easter sermon during a Eucharist service at Canterbury Cathedral.

During the week he delivered three Holy Week lectures on the state of British values in the modern era at the cathedral.

Meanwhile, at Rochester Cathedral, the Bishop of Rochester, the Rt Rev James Langstaff, will deliver his Easter service.



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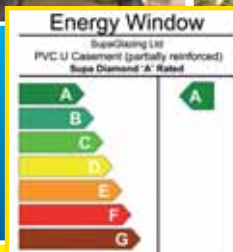
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Will the curse of Clegg haunt Lib Dems on comeback trail?

Special report: Continuing our countdown to the local county council elections on May 4, we look at the prospects of the Liberal Democrats as it seeks to regain ground lost in such a devastating manner during the 2015 general election

By Tom Pyman

Tom.Pyman@archant.co.uk

THE "collapse" of the Labour Party under Jeremy Corbyn has opened the door for the Liberal Democrats to claim crucial seats in Kent, according to the group's leader on the county council.

While insisting that, fundamentally, residents will vote on the quality of local candidates, and what they can offer their communities in next month's elections, Lib Dem councillor Trudy Dean says the national perception of the two parties will play a significant part in how the electorate vote when they take to the polls on May 4.

Opinion polls this week predicted Labour could lose about 125 councillors in elections held across England, Scotland and Wales, with the party's stock seemingly at its lowest in living memory under the stewardship of Mr Corbyn. Kent, let us not forget, only ever partially embracing Labour under Tony Blair.

Lib Dem party leader Tim Farron told KoS last year he anticipated an opportunity to steal traditional Labour supporters, with his party currently the only one sitting firmly in the centre ground, so recently beloved by the floating voter.

And with Labour suffering tangible blows in by-elections at both local and parliamentary elections across the country, there is a strong feeling now is the time for the Lib Dems to step up and provide opposition to the all-conquering Conservatives, who boast all 17 MPs and control of all but one of the local authorities in Kent.

Yet the rebuild job has been huge on a national scale after being obliterated at the polls at the 2015 general election.

Mr Farron's predecessor, Nick Clegg became an overnight sensation with the younger generation in 2010, who appeared won over by his promise not to increase tuition fees at universities.

However, a swift U-turn and a rise in fees to £9,000-a-year followed, and his credibility was dealt a significant blow.

And with it, a damaged reputation for many after getting "in bed with the Tories", which proved almost fatal for the party's hopes five years later.

Dropping from 57 seats to just eight was an emphatic indictment of how the public responded to Mr Clegg and the Lib Dems were

pretty much at rock bottom.

However, post-referendum, Mr Farron says the party's membership is at an all-time high, having swallowed up a number of voters who, unsuccessfully, voted to remain in the EU last June.

It has quietly picked up seats in local elections nationwide and sprung a surprise by stealing the Richmond Park parliamentary seat from one-time London mayoral candidate Zac Goldsmith.

Succeeding in a county as traditionally blue as Kent is quite the challenge, but Cllr Dean told KoS public perception was beginning to turn in the party's favour.

"I think there is an opportunity for us," she said.

"We've been getting a very friendly reception on doorsteps in the last few weeks, much better than for a considerable number of years.

"A lot of people had problems with us and our part in the coalition but now they are much more receptive.

"But more importantly, we are getting clear indications that the Labour vote is collapsing, and in our strong areas, Ukip is not particularly strong.

"I think the events of the last few months will have an effect on Ukip votes.

"I always look at by-election results and clearly, with the exception of traditional stronghold areas, their vote is falling and has been for some time.

"I expect that to be the same in Kent because very few of their candidates are people who have been councillors before.

"You have to ask why so many of them appear to be heading for the hills."

A string of farcical controversies including the defection of Mark Reckless and MP Douglas Carswell, means Ukip - which has done so well in the county in recent years - is at risk of losing its grasp on voters.

Certainly, Ukip founding father-turned Tory MP Craig Mackinlay feels the party doesn't have much of a purpose following the Brexit vote, and told us last week he wouldn't be surprised by an "absolute wipeout" of its seats on the council.

Thanet District Council leader, Chris Wells, however, laughed off that claim.

But if anyone is to provide the Conservatives with any kind of challenge next month, it's going to be those in yellow, at least according to South Thanet MP, Mr Mackinlay, who admitted "there might be a slight resurgence of the Lib Dems".



LEADER: Lib Dems leader Tim Farron knows his party needs to make real progress in the local elections next month to exploit confidence dips in both Labour and Ukip

South east MEP Catherine Bearder agreed there was a good opportunity for her party to capitalise on opposition groups floundering.

"I have not got a crystal ball but we are working very hard," she said.

"Labour support is melting away like snow in spring, and Ukip has completely gone.

"People haven't watched Ukip's pantomime shenanigans play out at all levels and have seen what their local councillors are like.

"So there is a huge opportunity for us, especially with the amount of people coming to us saying they didn't vote for a hard Brexit, which is damaging businesses in Kent.

"So many of our small business' competitors are on the mainland continent and see us outside the single market and customs union as a huge hit - we are the only party that is speaking up for them."

There are currently only seven Lib Dem councillors on KCC, putting them behind both Ukip

with 14 and Labour with 12.

Performance in these county council elections is often a good barometer of how a party will fare nationally, and thus a strong showing is fundamental for the Lib Dems with many urg-

Continued on page 16

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ing prime minister Theresa May to call a general election and strengthen her mandate.

Though Cllr Dean, who will be defending her seat in Malling Central on May 4, believes we will have to wait until 2020 for another such vote.

"I would be surprised if she was to call a general election because if she was going to, I think she would have by now, particularly when triggering Article 50," she said.

"I don't really think there is a public appetite for one either, but regardless, it's important to perform in these local elections.

"If the Labour Party does badly I think there'll be another leadership election.

"The national picture is one of a number of factors voters take into account.

"Local people have always voted on the quality of the local candidate and what they are pursuing locally, but it's associated with what is happening on a national basis as well."

Ms Bearder added: "Voting is always a combination of all sorts of things, even as little as a candidate shutting the garden gate on your way out.

"But this is the first election test after the referendum and we've got a lot of young people who couldn't vote then, but now can, who are horrified with Brexit and see us as their only hope."

In its campaigning to ensure those candidates are of as high quality as possible, the party this week released its manifesto, in which it pledges more protection for the Kent countryside, cutting congestion on the roads and improving street safety, including the introduction of more 20mph limits in residential areas.

It also pledges to increase the number of children getting grammar school places from poorer families - perhaps a slight shift from national policy, with Mr Farron telling us last year the selective system was flawed.

"If you want our young people to do the best they can, you make sure all our schools do well and telling them they are second best at 10 or 11 is not the way you do it," he said.

The party appears to be stopping short of wanting the entire system scrapped, a policy included



POWER: Can the Liberal Democrats stage any form of revival at County Hall? Or will it be all blue and purple once again?

in the manifesto for the Greens, which was also released last week.

Other policies in the Lib Dems' manifesto include allowing councils to borrow to support the building of low-cost homes for sale or rent, as well

as being "a local champion" for the NHS and care services.

Given the shocks that have been delivered in politics over the last 12 months, Cllr Dean said she isn't willing to suggest what could happen

when the results are out on the morning of May 5, nor would she disclose the areas her party were particularly targeting.

Maidstone is likely to be one of those, however, having drummed up strong levels of support in

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CONFIDENT: Liberal Democrat Trudy Dean, above, and MEP Catherine Bearder top right

the county town in recent years.

She said: "I don't ever make predictions, but even if I did, the polls have got everything wrong recently, so who am I to try and predict what will happen?"

"People are feeling very uncertain and worried about the future and, in those circumstances, the way people vote can be less predictable.

"I suppose that benefits the Liberal Democrats in that our candidates, more than any other

party, will campaign on local issues, because we are a grass roots party.

"Our fundamental values are about giving control of their communities, listening to them and responding to their wishes.

"Everywhere you look people are unhappy with what's happening at a national level in terms of the NHS, social care, the state of our roads, so we believe we are in a good position."

UKIP LEADER PAUL NUTTALL IN THANET AS BUILD UP TO ELECTIONS ON MAY 4 GATHERS PACE

CRAIG Mackinlay's suggestion that Ukip could suffer an "absolute wipe-out" of its seats on Kent County Council next month have been laughed off by the party's leader.

Paul Nuttall was on the campaign trail in Margate this week ahead of the local elections on May 4, and when KoS sat down with him on Tuesday night, the MEP was in a bullish mood, and insisted his party still had the ability to spring a surprise - despite the shocks it has suffered following former Rochester MP Mark Reckless quitting the party in Wales.

"It's all powderpuff, the Reckless stuff," he said. "It's chip paper - here today, gone tomorrow.

"As for Craig Mackinlay, to paraphrase Mandy Rice-Davies, he would say that, wouldn't he?"

"Theresa May is undoubtedly in a honeymoon

period, but it isn't going to last. We know that in the long term things are going to be absolutely fine for Ukip and there's only one way we're going to go, and that's up in the polls.

"I'm not going to deny these are probably the most difficult local elections we're going to face before 2020, but our candidates are out there working hard and we'll see what happens."

Ukip's reputation has suffered something of a knock in Thanet, where voters have accused the party of reneging on a pre-election promise made in 2015 to re-open Manston Airport (see page 5).

However, Mr Nuttall claims Ukip still has an appeal in a county where it has arguably performed better than anywhere else.

"Just because the leader has a northern accent, doesn't mean we're turning our back on the south - this

is the heart of Ukip," he said. "We're standing on a good platform of direct democracy, which I think attracts people, particularly post-referendum.

"The fact our councillors are not whipped also plays into our hands because people can be confident that if you elect a Ukip councillor they will stand up for the community above party.

"Our Kent county councillors have prevented town hall fat cats from being paid over £200,000 a year, they have campaigned against building on green belt, campaigned against zero hour contracts - it lines us up for a good campaign.

"I know for a fact from being out with them, they're getting a good reception on doorsteps. The pledges are coming in, it doesn't seem as if the voters are drifting away, so we're quite confident we're going to deliver a decent performance."

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In addition, there will be performances from the likes of UFO, Black Star Riders, Rival Sons, Saxon and plenty more. And you can be there courtesy of our great competition.

We've teamed up with the organisers to offer a pair of tickets to two lucky readers - giving them the chance to be part of the ultimate rock festival experience.

To be in with a chance, simply answer the following question:
Q. ZZ Top once sang about who?

- a. A Smart Dressed Man
- b. A Well Groomed Chap
- c. A Scruffy Oik



Terms and conditions:

You must be 18 years old to enter the competition. To enter text KENT followed by RAMBLIN and your answer then your first name, surname and email address to 63333, e.g. KENTRAMBLIN C JOHN SMITH johnsmith@email.com.

Texts cost 50p plus standard network rates. Winners will be selected at ran-

dom from all correct entries.

Each winner will win one pair of general admission tickets which will grant access to the festival - Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Management retain the right of refusal if you break any of the entrance criteria.

Each ticket is valid for one wristband only. The prize is non-transferable. You



SHOWTIME: The festival runs across July 28-30 at Mote Park

will be required to show ID. The prize excludes travel to and from event, accommodation, food, drink and other costs incurred by the winners. No cash alternative to prize in whole or in part.

Not open to staff of the promoter or promotional partner. The promoter's decision is final. Entries received after the closing date of April 25 2017 will not be counted, but you may still be charged.

Alternatively enter by post to KENTRAMBLIN Competition, Archant KOS Media, Kent House, Station Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PP, including your name, address, postcode and contact tel-

ephone number.

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■ **For the full line-up of the 2017 event, check out the site www.ramblinmanfair.com. And don't worry if you don't win - tickets can also be purchased through the site.**

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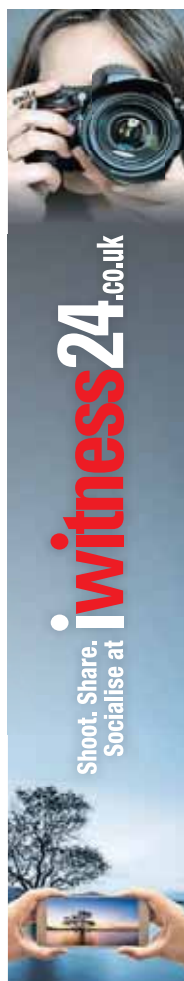


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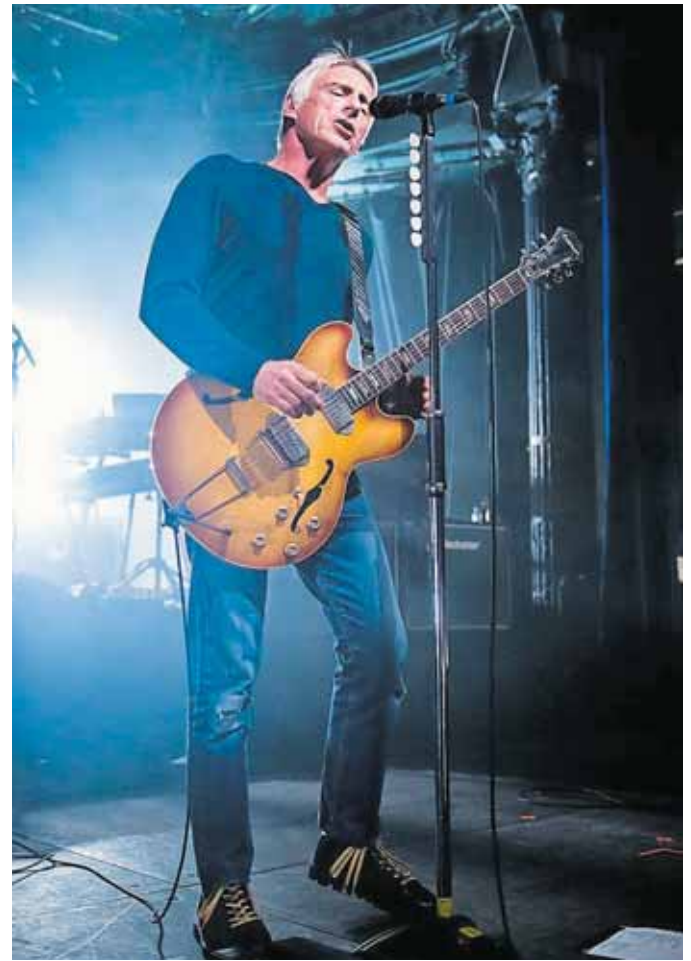
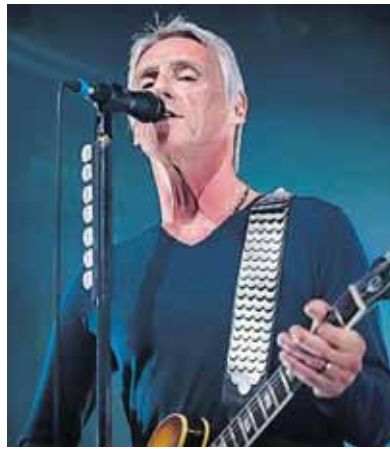
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STAR: Thousands packed the Leas Cliff Hall to watch the legend run through his latest solo set-list

Weller hits right notes with sell-out

Photos: Andy Archer
www.andyphotos.co.uk

PAUL Weller rocked thousands of fans this week as he played in front of a sell-out crowd at Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall.

The star - who last week announced he was to become a father

for the eighth time at 58 - proved he could still deliver on stage too as part of a 10-date tour of UK venues.

Best known as lead singer of The Jam, he went on to form the Style Council before enjoying huge solo success.

During his lengthy career - his first hit with The Jam, *In The City*, charted in 1977 when he was just 19 - he has gone on to win four Brit

Awards - best male twice and, in 2006, a gong for outstanding contribution to music.

Fans at the show were treated to the likes of hits *The Changingman*, *Start!*, *Wild Wood* and *My Ever Changing Moods*.

No stranger to Kent, in 2009 he headlined one of the days at the Hop Farm Festival in Paddock Wood.

TIGHT: The former Jam frontman is set to become a dad again at 58



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Sian's family seek justice after 'failure' of hospital

A coroner this week ruled the death of young mum Sian Hollands, 25, from Dartford could have been avoided

By Tom Pyman

Tom.Pyman@archant.co.uk

THE family of a Dartford mum who died at Darent Valley Hospital say they are pushing for a criminal prosecution after a coroner ruled she may have lived had doctors not failed her.

Sian Hollands, 25, was declared dead on November 15, 2015, after suffering a pulmonary embolism (PE) - a potentially fatal clot that can prevent blood reaching the lungs, having been discharged just hours before.

A former drug addict, who lived in Priory Hill, she was first admitted to the Dartford hospital the day before, complaining of shortness of breath and said she was suffering with withdrawal symptoms having not taken medication for three days as part of her recovery programme.

Family members including mother, Nicola Smith, and partner Carl Alleyne, with whom she had an on-off relationship, told the inquest, which first started in January before being adjourned, that Ms Hollands was not taken seriously because of her addic-

tion and accused staff of being "horrible" to her.

Shortly after being admitted, Ms Hollands was told she could leave by Dr Kamran Khan, even though Mr Alleyne said she couldn't walk and needed help standing up.

He told the court he had been with Ms Hollands the entire time, except at one stage when he went to the Costa coffee shop - barely 40 metres away from where she was being treated, he said - to get her some ice after her temperature started to rise.

Upon returning, he found she suffered a cardiac arrest, from which she never recovered.

Mr Alleyne told the court he thought the quality of care provided by the hospital was "poor".

The inquest first began on January 30, but was called off after two days as it emerged Dr Khan required legal representation, having disputed an admission by Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust, which is responsible for running the hospital, that the decision he made to discharge her was a mistake.

At the inquest's conclusion on Mon-

SCENE: Darent Valley Hospital is where Ms Hollands passed away. It has been criticised for its handling of her

day at Gravesend Old Town Hall, coroner Roger Hatch said: "The death of Sian Hollands was due to the failures of the doctors at the Darent Valley Hospital in Dartford to examine, diagnose and treat her for pulmonary embolism following her admission to the hospital.

"Had they done so, on the balance of probability, she would not have died."

Speaking outside court, where the victim's young children wore T-shirts printed with the message 'Justice For Mummy', Ms Hollands' sister, Ebony, 22, told KoS the family would push for criminal charges.

"It's heart-wrenching and a very hollow victory," she said.

"I'm pleased it went the way it did but it doesn't bring my sister back.

"It has been so stressful to have to hear it all again, especially after so many delays, because as a family we've suffered enough.

"The benefit is we weren't able to tell her children why mummy wasn't here, and now we can say she went to hospital and didn't come home because of the doctors.

"We'll never get any real comfort, there's no reason to celebrate but at least we can now say what really happened.

"My mum is going to go to the police and push for a criminal prosecution because we believe somebody has got to take some form of responsibility.

"If they treated her as a human being and not a label, my sister would still be here.

"It's a hollow victory but as far as we're concerned the fight isn't over."

Mother, Mrs Smith, added: "Every single day is a battle, I've got a seven-year-old granddaughter who cries every day because she can't believe her mummy's not here, that she misses her birthday and isn't in the audience to watch her school play.

"I think my daughter was labelled a druggie and a waste of time and they didn't expect what was going to follow."

A spokesperson for the trust said: "We continue to extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Sian Hollands.

"We apologise to the family that Sian did not receive the level of care that she was entitled to expect when she came into A&E in November 2015.

"The inquest has highlighted a number of failings in the way that her care was delivered. We will be complying fully with the direction that the coroner has given.

"We have looked closely at our procedures in the emergency department and produced a detailed action plan to help prevent this type of serious incident from happening again.

"The actions we have taken include, changing our system for recording vital observations to the National Early Warning System (NEWS) so that we can better recognise how severely a patient is deteriorating and escalate appropriately.

"Staffing levels in the emergency department have been increased.

"We now have more doctors in the department providing clinical support over the full 24 hour period.

"A general manager with a senior nursing background provides support to the staff and clinicians during weekdays between 8am and 8pm and at weekends there is extended matron cover.

"Matrons are experienced emergency department nurses who take a leadership role in the department to ensure safety.

"New protocols have been introduced to measure and react to surges in demand in the department and there are plans in place to maintain patient safety and flow.

"Throughout this time we have worked with Sian's family to make improvements.

"We were happy to welcome them to the department at the end of last year to show them how things have changed."



FIGHT: Sian Hollands, left, and her family, right, who are determined to fight on for justice for her following her death in 2015.



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REVIVED: Among the schools due to open in the coming years will be those on the site of the former Chaucer School, in Canterbury, below, and Pent Valley in Folkestone

Flood of free schools confirmed to help ease growing pressures

Chris Britcher looks at this week's announcement of a host of secondary and primary schools for Kent

A HOST of new non-selective free schools in the county have been given the nod this week - with the sites of two major former secondary schools set to be revived as a result.

The Department of Education unveiled seven schools for Kent and four for Medway as part of a process which saw 131 new school applications approved nationwide.

It is designed to help cope with the growing demand on schools, with some 69,000 new places created as a result.

Kent is certainly in need of some with pressure in some key areas.

Among those given approval is Canterbury's Barton Court Academy. It has won the race to secure the right to open a non-selective on the site of what was the Chaucer School in Spring Lane.

Once hugely popular, a poor Ofsted followed by declining numbers saw it closed over a phased period, finally shutting up for good in 2015.

Now it will come under the wing of the grammar school which recently set itself up as a multi-academy trust. Headquartered at the mixed grammar in nearby Longport, the school last year took the Charles Dickens School in Broadstairs under its wing.

The school submitted its bid for the Chaucer site last September and hopes to have the five-form mixed entry school - with a 1,050 capacity - up and running by September 2019.

Head teacher Kirstin Cardus said she was "delighted" at the decision.

Also being revived is the former Pent Valley School in Folkestone which closed last year amid declining numbers.

Now the Turner Schools Trust, which recently took over Folkestone primary schools Martello Grove and Morehall from the Lilac Sky trust, will open a new mixed secondary on the site - potentially welcoming its first students by September 2018.

Dr Jo Saxton, CEO of Turner Schools said: "With Morehall Academy only a short walk from Pent Valley we are excited about being able to provide a seamless education for children from reception through to 18."

The Leigh Academies Trust (LAT) has been approved to open three by 2019. It already runs the university technical college in Dartford.

It will be responsible for the Medway Academy - a new secondary school for Medway with an intake of 180 pupils per year and sixth form. It will be based in a brand new site in either Strood or Rainham, with discussions on-going with Medway Council. It will open in September 2019 and include a grammar stream.

It will also open the Bearsted Academy - a special secondary based close to junction seven on the M20, near Maidstone.

It will work in close partnership with the trust's Milestone Academy to offer opportunities for some of the region's most vulnerable pupils. It is due to open in September 2018.

It will also be behind the Maidstone Primary Academy, based on the same site as the Bearded Academy and offering 60 places in each year.

fering 60 places in each year.

Maidstone and the Weald MP Helen Whately said: "We badly need these schools, and this announcement will give parents peace of mind that their child will have a good school place to go to. Together with KCC, I've been urging the government to commit the necessary funding, and I'm pleased that they have listened."

"Now it's critical that everyone involved moves quickly to get the schools built and opened in time for pupils to start in September 2018."

The Endeavour Multi-Academy Trust, formed by the two Wilmington grammars, will be behind Stone Lodge Academy, a new secondary school for 11 to 19 year-olds in Dartford.

Also in Dartford will be the CSAT Northern Gateway Primary run by the Crofton Schools Academy Trust.

Nearby Gravesham will also get another primary courtesy of the Primary First Trust which is based in Bexleyheath and runs primaries in Medway. The site for that has yet to be confirmed.

In Medway, there will also be the Maritime Academy catering for pupils aged between 4-19 and offering a total of 1,940 places - including 250 sixth form students. Details of who is behind this remain unclear but along with the Medway Academy, it will provide a major boost to the area.

Also, it will see the Rochester Riverside Church of England Primary, with places for 420 and The Beeches, an alternative provision primary for



35 pupils with behavioural issues.

Medway Council says it is now considering viable locations after which provisional opening dates will be revealed. It expects them all to be open for business between 2019 and 2021.

Medway Council's portfolio holder for children's services, Andrew Mackness, said: "This is great news for Medway families. We are progressing well with our school expansion project, and the creation of four free schools is really going to help to address the national challenge of school capacity at a local level."

"Our population is growing and so it's key that school capacity is addressed and taken seriously. We're expecting large numbers of school applications in the coming years, especially for secondary schools, so this news is very welcome."

"Medway children are at the heart of everything we do, and the four new schools are only going to further strengthen the area's education landscape."

Education secretary Justine Greening said: "We need schools that can bring out the best in every single child no matter where they're growing up, how much their parents earn, or however different their talents are."

"That's why these new schools are so important - they give us the school places we need for the future, and they also give parents more choices to find a great school place in their area that's right for their child."

Free schools are new state schools that are not under local council control and have freedom over areas such as staff pay and the curriculum.

In total, 124 have opened since 2015, with 373 more, including those announced this week, due to open.

The government has pledged to open 500 new free schools by September 2020.

Shadow education secretary Angela Rayner said: "While new school places are welcome and necessary, the government are failing to deliver the number of places that will be needed by 2020."

"The free schools programme has been proven to be an enormously expensive and inefficient way to create school places."

"This week's announcement alone almost certainly comes with a huge price tag, without necessarily even providing new school places in the areas that need them most. And this is at a time when existing schools are facing a severe funding crisis."

After years of suffering from embarrassing, painful teeth... I can finally smile with... Confidence!



Me in my younger years when I had something to smile about!

I was in my early twenties when the pain and misery started. I remember vividly visiting my dentist (very nervous), to have my first tooth removed. I had always looked after my teeth and the thought of losing them so young started the alarm bells ringing.

I remember my grandparents' plastic false teeth and thought that would never be me! Well, over the next decade I lost one tooth after the other. I wasn't given any options to replace my missing teeth until I had lost a few, then I was offered the dreaded denture! This is your only option I was told, if you don't wear something your remaining teeth will move and you will end up with no teeth!

I did as I was 'told' and wore a very uncomfortable, ill-fitting denture having no alternative but to use fixative morning, noon and night to keep the denture in place...this really made me gag, I was in despair!

I lost my confidence

Over the years I have lost count how many new dentures I have had made; they were all so uncomfortable. My confidence dropped and my self-esteem was at an all-time low. I started to decline invites where I knew we would be eating or a picture might be taken...apart from work, I also became a recluse!

It changed my life

Looking back it all seems rather dramatic, but that's how I felt! Then my life changed... I had heard about 'dental implants' but like most of us thought they were for the rich and famous. Then a friend told me about a practice in Tonbridge called **Calm & Gentle Dental Care**; the name in its

self-put me at ease... Calm & Gentle, I like that! I went along for a complimentary consultation where I met Pieter, Pieter Claassen, the dental implant expert. Pieter took the time to examine my remaining teeth and mouth and explained all of the options available to me.

For the first time in years, I smiled!

For the first time in a long while I was excited...I actually smiled! That was around six- months ago, since undergoing the treatment I have never looked back. I now accept every invitation to go out and socialise with friends and family, and I am always at the front of the pictures waiting to show off my new smile...I love it! My only regret is that I never met Pieter sooner...he could have saved me from years of painful, embarrassing teeth! Thanks Pieter, you changed my life!

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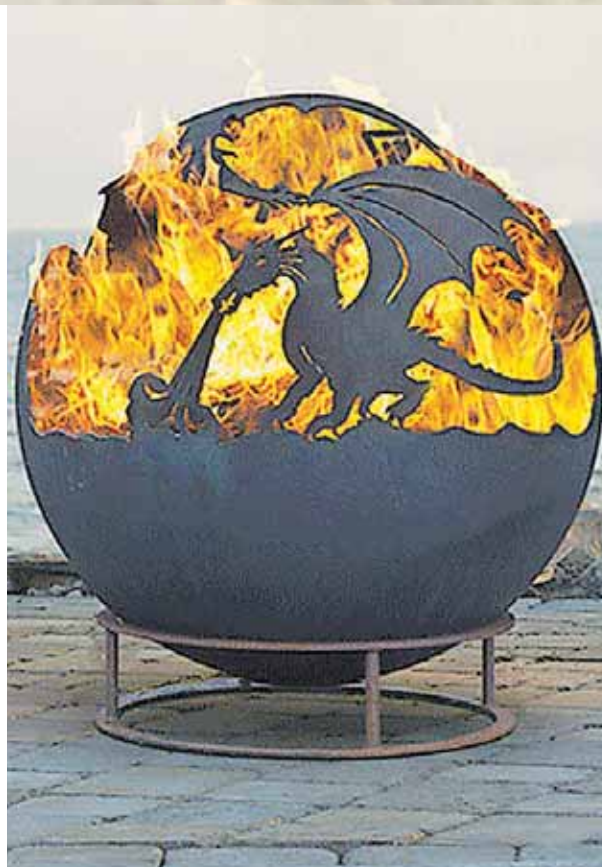


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TRANSFORMED: An artist's impression of how the English Channel may have been formed, left, and geographic surveys of the sea floor between Kent and mainland France, right

Fascinating insight into how the original Brexit was triggered

Scientists have made a series of discoveries which could unlock the mystery as to when the last link between Kent and the continent was breached, in doing so leaving Britain isolated from the continent

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WHILE the nation continues to grapple with Brexit and our divorce from the European Union, scientists have revealed fascinating details of how Kent and mainland Europe split from one another 450,000 years ago.

They have discovered where once England was joined by land which stretched from Dover to Calais, the dam break in a huge flood and what we know as the English Channel today was formed.

Thus ending our only physical connection to the continent.

A report they have published in Nature Communications says it started almost 450,000 years ago when the Earth was in the grip of an ice age.

That ice stretched across the North Sea, from Britain to Scandinavia.

This, coupled with a low sea level meant the entire English Channel was essentially a frozen tundra landscape with a scattering of small rivers.

It remained unproved, but the scientists believe what followed was a massive build up of pressure from what is called a proglacial lake. This is a body of water that is created in front of an ice sheet.

This lake was in what is now the North Sea, and continued to push against the dam.

The researchers from Imperial College London and their colleagues from institutes in Europe show the opening of the Dover Strait in the English Channel occurred in two episodes, where an initial lake spill was followed by catastrophic flooding.

Backing their claims is research

from a decade ago, also from the Imperial College London, which revealed geophysical evidence of giant valleys on the sea floor in the central part of English Channel.

The team said these valley networks are evidence of a huge flood gouging out the land, which they speculated may have been caused by a catastrophic breach in a chalk rock ridge which at the time joined Britain to France.

Keith Parfitt from the Canterbury Archaeological Trust said: "This idea does seem to be correct. We do know Britain and France were once connected and, of course, now there is water between."

"So there had to be a breakaway at some stage. The idea it was caused by an ice lake that created a super-flood sounds perfectly reasonable."

This new examination of the rock formations under the sea shows for the first time ever that details of how the chalk ridge in the Dover Strait was breached.

Researchers said the fresh geophysical data collected in Belgium and France has been combined with extensive sea floor data gathered from the UK.

They now say it shows at least some evidence of huge holes and a valley system located on the sea floor.

Team members say they have illustrated the chalk ridge once acted like a huge dam holding back the proglacial lake.

This lake was first hypothesised by scientists over a century ago and the authors of this modern day study show how the lake overflowed in giant waterfalls.

This increase in fast moving water eroded the rock escarpment, weakening it and eventually causing it to fail and release huge volumes of water

onto the valley floor below.

Experts believe the huge holes that they analysed on the sea floor are plunge pools, created when water cascading over an escarpment hit the ground and eroded rock. The plunge pools in the Dover Strait are huge – up to several kilometres in diameter and around 100 metres deep.

The power of the water simply drilled into solid rock. Around seven plunge pools run in a line from Dover to Calais – the closest points between England and the continent. The researchers suggest these plunge pools are evidence of an overflow of water from the lake in the southern North Sea.

The straight line of the plunge pools suggests they were cascading off one single rock ridge perhaps 32 kilometres long and 100 metres high.

This was the land bridge between Europe and Kent.

Maybe hundreds of thousands of years later, a new valley system called the Lobourg Channel was carved by

another megaflood process that crossed the Dover Strait.

The researchers once again demonstrate this valley system is connected to the giant valley network in the central English Channel. They suggest that a spill over of other, smaller lakes in front of the ice sheets in the North Sea may have been responsible for the later episode of flood erosion.

Dr Jenny Collier is a co-author of the study from the Department of Earth Science and Engineering at Imperial College London.

She said: "Based on the evidence that we've seen, we believe the Dover Strait 450,000 years ago would have been a huge rock ridge made of chalk joining Britain to France, looking more like the frozen tundra in Siberia than the green environment we know today. It would have been a cold world dotted with waterfalls plunging over the iconic white chalk escarpment that we see today in the White Cliffs of Dover."

"We still don't know for sure why

the proglacial lake spilt over. Perhaps part of the ice sheet broke off, collapsing into the lake, causing a surge that carved a path for the water to cascade off the chalk ridge. In terms of the catastrophic failure of the ridge, maybe an earth tremor, which is still characteristic of this region today, further weakened the ridge. This may have caused the chalk ridge to collapse, releasing the megaflood that we have found evidence for in our studies."

And another co-author Professor Sanjeev Gupta, from Imperial, added: "The breaching of this land bridge between Dover and Calais was undeniably one of the most important events in British history, helping to shape our island nation's identity even today."

"When the ice age ended and sea levels rose, flooding the valley floor for good, Britain lost its physical connection to the mainland. Without this dramatic breaching Britain would still be a part of Europe. This is Brexit 1.0 – the Brexit nobody voted for."

HOW WAS THIS DISCOVERED?

IT seems the concrete evidence to this hypothesis came fairly recently.

Imperial said engineers first found evidence of the plunge pools when they were carrying out geological surveys of the Dover Strait sea floor in the 1960s.

At that time, it was not known what caused them, but they were called the Fosse Dangeard.

And their discovery had a major impact on the development of the Channel Tunnel.

The team said loose gravel and sand infilling of these giant plunge pools meant engineers

had to adjust the route of the Channel Tunnel to avoid them.

And then in 1985, a marine geologist named Professor Alec Smith, from Bedford College in London, first proposed that the holes were created by ancient waterfalls. A lack of hard evidence meant these assertions were largely forgotten, but it appears he was spot on.

The Imperial scientists say if it wasn't for a set of chance geological circumstances, Britain may have still remained connected to mainland Europe, jutting out into the sea similarly to Denmark.

There is no definite timeline, and the research team is planning to take core samples of the in-filled sediments in the plunge pools to assess the timing of erosion and infill.

A firm timeline will help us understand the distinctive evolution of Britain when compared to mainland Europe.

However, this will be a real challenge for the team as getting sediment core samples in the Dover Strait means dealing with huge tidal changes and traversing the world's busiest shipping lane.

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Fitting farewell to heroic officer

Friends, family and colleagues lined the streets of London this week to pay their respects to PC Keith Palmer as the victim of the Westminster terror attack was afforded a full force funeral in the capital

By Scott D'Arcy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FRIENDS, family and colleagues paid a moving final farewell to hero PC Keith Palmer on Monday as his funeral took place in central London.

The 48-year-old father and husband, who served for seven years in Bromley between 2002 and 2009, had been killed as he attempted to stop Khalid Masood entering the Palace of Westminster on his bloody rampage last month.

During the service, he was hailed "a hero" whose "blue lamp will shine bright forever".

PC Palmer's funeral cortege, including his hearse topped with a floral tribute reading No 1 Daddy, left the palace, where his coffin laid in rest overnight, through the Carriage Gates he died defending.

His coffin travelled slowly and amid silence along 2.6 miles of the capital's usually bustling streets, avoiding the scene of last month's atrocity on Westminster Bridge on its journey to Southwark Cathedral, in central London.

Around 50 members of PC Palmer's family including his wife, child, mother and father, brother and sisters attended the cathedral service, led by the Dean of Southwark the Very Reverend Andrew Nunn and followed by a private cremation.

Home secretary Amber Rudd, mayor of London Sadiq Khan and the manager and captain of PC Palmer's beloved Charlton Athletic football club, Karl Robinson and Johnnie Jackson, were present.

Met commissioner Cressida Dick, the first female head of Scotland Yard in its 188-year history, also attended the full force funeral in her first public engagement in her new role.

She read the WH Auden poem Funeral Blues, which begins "Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone", and asks for "the traffic police men to wear black cotton gloves" in mourning of a loved one.

The Met said more than 5,000 officers from the force and across the country were expected to gather in central London for the service and to line the route, which saw dozens of roads closed to traffic for hours.

Thousands more officers and staff at police stations across the country marked two minutes' silence at 2pm.

Ms Dick praised the turnout from police and members of the public, who had lined the barriers along the route even hours before the funeral began.

"I think the events at Westminster have appalled the whole nation, that's quite clear," Ms Dick said.

"Since then I know, Met colleagues and colleagues from all around the country have been literally overwhelmed by the strength of feeling from members of the public."

Columns of officers in dress uniform, many with service medals pinned to their jackets and wearing



TEARS: Thousands paid their respects as the funeral procession passed through London. All pictures: PA

white gloves, lined up near the cathedral as on-duty colleagues involved in the large security operation stood guard.

A burst of sunshine broke through the clouds as PC Palmer's funeral procession wound its course up the packed Borough High Street.

A hushed silence interrupted the swell of by-standers lining the procession's route as it passed, while tourists and locals leant over barricades on one of London's busiest arteries between the City of London and Southwark.

The hearse passed to the sound of organ music from the nearby cathedral, broadcast to the street over a PA system hanging from a lamppost.

Some members of the public and police shed tears as the procession went past, while members of PC Palmer's family and friends followed the hearse in solemn black cars at the rear.

The procession was led by the Metropolitan Police Colour Party and a Black Escort of mounted officers before the coffin was carried into the cathedral by colleagues and friends of PC Palmer.

Two National Police Air Service helicopters also performed a flypast and aerial salute.

Screens and PA systems were erected for members of the public outside to watch and listen to the service, while inside the Met's senior chaplain, the Reverend Prebendary Jonathan Osborne, led prayers and

chief inspector Neil Sawyer, who worked with PC Palmer in Bromley and the territorial support group, paid tribute.

Ch Insp Sawyer said: "Keith joined on November 5 2001 and in March 2002 was given his first posting from training school - Bromley borough.

"He quickly settled in and excelled.

"It was at Bromley in 2005 that I would first meet Keith. I was a custody sergeant and Keith, as a proactive officer, was a regular visitor to the charge room with his prisoners. My early recollections of Keith, are of a hardworking, professional, honest, kind and caring person.

"A close friend who worked with Keith at Bromley recalled an occasion they were on patrol together, that showed his determination and enthusiasm.

"Keith had been trying to track down a wanted offender, spending weeks visiting various addresses, discovering a cannabis factory in the process before finally, by chance, seeing this male walking toward a shop.

"The dedication of Keith was such that, even though it was toward the end of their shift and they were both due to go to the pub after for a team event, Keith ran after this male eventually detaining him.

"Keith was pleased with his success - his friend, now delayed for the pub with witness notes to write, was not as pleased.

"Keith's Bromley shoulder number, 157PY, is now retired."



MOURNED: Keith Palmer, above, and his officer's helmet



SCENE: Cortege passes scene of his killing

Power of the postcard sends back a nostalgic look at town

Once the way to contact loved ones while on holiday, some historic postcards today allow us a glimpse back in time to some of our best-loved destinations

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

LONG before Facebook and WhatsApp, the postcard was the 'instant' communication of choice for those wanting to send a quick picture and message.

And often, the pictures on those cards were more than a quaint picture of a nice looking cottage.

The images captured a moment in history - the people and the places now lost in the mists of time.

Now historians and authors Martin Easdown and Linda Sage have produced an incredible book compiling images on postcards of Hythe.

From old-style beach huts on the seafronts, to troops parading through the town - some heading to face their fate on the killing fields of northern France during the First World War - the pictures provide a snap-shot of the Cinque Port through the years.

Mr Easdown said he wanted to capture some of the old beauty and

charm in a book that mapped the town's history from the start of the 20th century when postcards were the principal form of communication.

The cards are from the author's own collection.

Mr Easdown told us: "The picture postcard has left us with a valuable historic photographic record of the picturesque town of Hythe since the dawn of the 20th century. Every facet of the town's life - its seaside, churches, High Street, military, canal, transport, disasters - was captured on a postcard and sent across the world. Buildings that have been lost, shops and trades that are long gone, and other physical and social changes are there for us to see.

"Postcards are instant nostalgia for the 'good old days'.

"The introduction of postcards in Britain dates to 1870, but it was not until 1894 that a picture was allowed on them. Even then, the picture had to share one side of the card with the message, with the address and stamp on the other side, so it was limited in size.

"In 1902, the Post Office allowed the picture to occupy one side of the card, with the message, address and stamp sharing the other and by the following year, a craze for collecting and sending picture postcards had begun, which was to peak between the years 1905 and 1908.

"Both local and national printers and publishers got in on the act and issued many postcards of Hythe between 1902 and 1914, the 'golden age' of the picture postcard. The advent of the First World War in 1914 saw cards issued of Hythe's military involvement, although in smaller numbers compared to the Edwardian tourist views.

"Following the resumption of peace in 1918, postcards of Hythe continued to be produced, but the craze for collecting them had largely passed."

Styles and fashions for the 'look' of postcards changed over the years.

Mr Easdown said: "The attractive colour printed cards of the golden age period, often printed in Germany, were replaced by largely sepia and photographic views until the 1960s when colour postcards were once

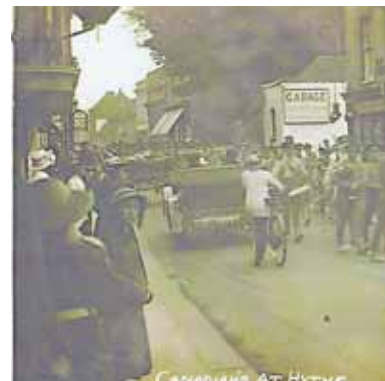
again produced.

"Although the demand for sending a postcard is just a fraction of what it once was in this digital and internet age, cards showing Hythe's picturesque views can still be found on sale.

"And of course, many of those old postcards, sold in their time for just a penny, are now eagerly sought after by collectors, and the rarer views can fetch sums of £20 each.

"The colour printing of this book gives us a good opportunity to include some of those attractive Edwardian colour postcards of the Hythe area, which, in previous books, have largely been reproduced in black and white.

"However, because the colour views, usually published in large numbers by national postcard publishers such as Valentines of Dundee, tend to show the more commonly seen tourist views, it was felt that some of the rarer photographic cards should also be included. These were often produced by local photographers in limited numbers and provide a valuable record of events such as disasters and military parades.



WAR: Canadian troops off to the



"One such local publisher of postcards was the Hythe Reporter newspaper, which produced an extensive set of cards in the early years of the 20th century, including archive views dating back to the 1860s.

"Their cards are instantly recognisable with the caption placed in a



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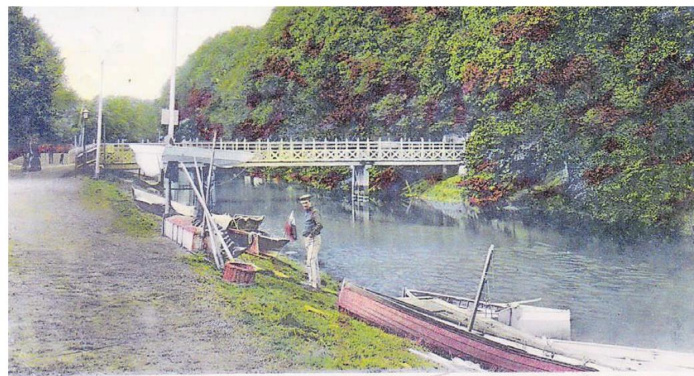
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First World War



MARKET SQUARE & TRAM TERMINUS, HYTHE - No. 29



Military Canal, Hythe. This is so pretty. M.W.

Upton's Series.



PEAK: Images capture scenes from Hythe's military canal, bustling sea front, war memorial and High Street as well as nearby Saltwood village

border on the right-hand side, and include both black and white and hand-coloured versions."

The Hythe Reporter was founded in 1890 by ex-schoolteacher Edward Palmer and was published for over 50

years, although it seems no further postcards were produced after the Edwardian era.

Adds Mr Easdown: "Palmer was a prominent local character, who also had a hand in founding the Venetian

Fete on the Royal Military Canal in 1890 and the Canada Day at Shorncliffe Military Cemetery in 1917.

"In addition to views of Hythe, Palmer also produced cards showing neighbouring villages such as Salt-

wood, Lympe and Newington, and so we have decided to include views of these outlying areas too."

Martin Easdown and Linda Sage have been researching and publishing books on the history of Folkestone

and Hythe since 1996.

They both live in Hythe and this is their fourth book on the town.

■ **Hythe The Postcard Collection** by Martin Easdown and Linda Sage, comes out in May.



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15 September, 2017 • Quote: RP9-1-KOS

Italy is one of the most popular destinations for holiday makers from the UK and this holiday takes in some of the highlights of the north of the country including the stunning city of Turin including an 'Italian Job' film location tour; the world heritage Cinque Terre, on Italy's Ligurian coast, comprising of five stunning fishing villages clinging to a dramatic coastline; Portofino which oozes riviera style; the impressive city of Milan; and fabulous Lake Como.

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We Love the 60s Seaside Christmas Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast

17 November, 2017 • Quote: CP11-2-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for an early taste of Christmas - for over 40s only - as we rock the weekend away to the sounds of the 60s. Our brilliant entertainment programme features The Barron Knights, The Swinging Blue Jeans, Roy Carter (ex-Drifters & Foundations) and The New All Stars. Enjoy non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and half-price drinks at this rockin' party weekend.

INCLUDED: Half Price bar drinks - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers - lunch times and evenings from Friday night to Sunday night • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - club upgrade available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Free parking



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Departs May 7, 2018 • Quote: GP5-KOS

The biennial Monaco Historic Grand Prix is run on the famous Formula 1 circuit with classic Grand Prix cars from the 1940s to 1980s. With a seated grandstand ticket for final race day, access to cars and drivers in the paddock, direct Eurostar travel to the Mediterranean coast, excursions to Portofino, San Remo and Dolceacqua, and free drinks at the hotel every night, you can expect a Grand experience.

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Suffolk 60s Seaside Party



Warner Corton, Suffolk Coast

23 February, 2018 - Quote: CO2-KOS

The beautiful Suffolk coast is the location for Corton Coastal Village which has all the easy atmosphere of a holiday home, with the creature comforts Warner is famous for. Built on a chalet theme, the rooms have clapboard design, with fresh pastel interiors, and many have terraces overlooking the sea. Our 60s Sounds party weekend - for over 40s only - is packed with entertainment. We've lined up a brilliant showbill featuring 60s bands Union Gap, the New Honeycombs and Roy Carter (ex-Drifters & Foundations). With non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and free drinks every night, this is going to be a party weekend to remember.

INCLUDED: Free drinks 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & pumped mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Free parking



KICKSTART: They've been announced to join other bands such as Gorillaz and Toots and The Maytals who will also be playing in Margate

Rockers Maximo Park enter their personal Dreamland

Margate park secures another big name for its summer 2017 musical line-up

HOT on the heels of the sell-out success of Demon Dayz festival, Dreamland Margate has announced two more events kickstarting their live music line-up in the Hall By The Sea for 2017.

Launching the new sound system in this event space, and joining the rest of the line-up for the park's opening weekend, are Newcastle rockers Maximo Park.

Also joining are reggae legends and Grammy award-winners, Toots and the Maytals who will turn up the heat this summer and play in the same week that Dreamland welcome punk duo Slaves.

Rebecca Ellis, director of programming and events at Dreamland, said she believes the line-up makes for a brilliant year for the park. "We're so excited to have Maximo

Park and Toots and the Maytals coming to play at Dreamland," she said.

"It's going to be a brilliant year for music in Margate and we are confident that our diverse range of live gigs and festivals will deliver for the music crowd.

"With plenty more to announce yet, there's a lot to look forward to."

Dreamland has a history of attracting the likes of The Who and The Rolling Stones in previous years and is now making a return to its roots promoting itself as the 'go-to-venue for music by the sea'.

Dreamland's outdoor event space launches on June 10 with festival Demon Dayz which will be headlined by Gorillaz.

The group is spearheaded by Blur frontman Damon Albarn and artist Jamie Hewlett.

Demon Dayz will also include a full line-up of support acts - details

of which have still to be confirmed.

Gorillaz last played in the UK as part of a world tour in 2010.

Other festivals previously announced include Hipsville Seaside a Go! Go! - a 60s and beyond themed party and the punk, ska, dub and reggae celebration that is Undercover Festival.

Hipsville takes place across April 28 to 30, and will see international bands, DJs, and Go Go! girls dancing until 6am to the sounds of the 60's.

The festival will also host a cocktail party called Tikiville on the Saturday (April 29) where visitors can enjoy a selection of tropical cocktails. Guests are encouraged to embrace the event's theme and to dress Hawaiian casual.

The Sunday Hipsville Car and Bike Show invites vintage, custom cars and bikes from all eras to visit.

In addition to music, cars, and cocktails Hipsville will have a three-day vintage market with stalls selling clothes, records and home wear.

Undercover Festival will be at Dreamland for the first time this year after moving from Brighton's sea front.

The festival boasts a line-up featuring Tom Robinson, Angelic Upstarts, Ruts DC and Geno Washington and the Ram Jam Band, and runs from September 8-9.

Maximo Park will be playing on May 27, and Toots and the Maytals on July 20.

Tickets for both went on general sale April 12.

Tickets for all festivals and concerts at Dreamland can be purchased by visiting www.dreamland.co.uk, www.ticketmaster.co.uk or www.seetickets.com

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MATURE lady 70s, various interests but a bit lonely, hoping to meet a gent to cheer me up, come on, we can have some fun together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426349

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673

GENTS, please call me if you are looking to meet a kind sincere lady for nights at the theatre, socialising etc. You can call or text me. I promise to reply, I'm very genuine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426345

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715

JACKIE is 54yrs and an attractive easygoing brunette, she's hoping to meet a similar minded chap for some fun, dates, chats, text or call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426343

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399

ATTRACTIVE blonde lady, 54yrs, loyal, romantic and solvent hoping to meet a gent with GSOH for romance, sensual times and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426341

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3022 Box 421375

KAREN, 52yrs, attractive with GSOH, very active and outgoing. If you are 40+ give me a call, lets have a chat, maybe meet up. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426339

TAMIKKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3006 Box 422365

CAROLINE, attractive mature lady, various interests, hoping to meet a smart gent for socialising, perhaps leading to something more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426347

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. Tel: 0906 515 3034 Box 425979

LADY, 70, 5'6", divorced, blonde hair, brown eyes, friendly, lives in the Kent area, likes walking, holidays, WLTW somebody for friendship in the local area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426193

JASMINE, 34yrs, non smoking first time date! Easy going, attractive and hard working. Due to work commitments I'm looking for a no strings companion any age. Looks unimportant must have GSOH. Tel: 0906 515 3014 Box 426201

GILLY, slim petite lady, affectionate and loving, solvent with own home, hoping to meet gent, be kind, looks unimportant. ACA/text answered. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425929

MERRY widow seeks lovely lonely gent for companionship. Please call, we can have a chat and see how we get on. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425927

LIVELY 53-year-old female, young in mind, wants discreet fun, loves gardening, dancing music etc and more. Text only. Mailbox: 5763284

BRUNETTE lady, 70, slim, sophisticated, size 10, kind of like Helen Mirren as a brunette, lives near Tunbridge Wells, WLTW a genuine, hopefully family oriented gentleman, for genuine friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424877

AMANDA, slim blonde, 50s seeks discreet gent for special times, mutually beneficial to us both. Call now. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425327

HARRIETT 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long legs and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. Tel: 0906 515 3030 Box 426205

EILEEN mid 60s seeks gent 50s-60s for friendship, possibly much more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425341

JEAN, mature lady, genuine with many hobbies, slim, blonde and attractive. WLTW interesting gent with GSOH, must be cheerful, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424675

WANTED gent 50-76 for cosy nights in, good times, call or text me, you won't be sorry. I'm attractive and have lots to offer. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425339

LINDA, 48yrs attractive brunette seeks gent for laughter, winning dining. Age unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425337

CORRINE, genuine advertiser seeking adult fun, no time wasters pls. I will respond to all msgs. Text Only. Mailbox: 4035196

ANETTA, black cuddly lady seeks man who knows what a woman needs. I'm very friendly and have time for you. Please call or text me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425933

PHILIPPA, feminine open minded lady seeking adult fun, genuine responses only pls, no time-wasters. Text Only: Mailbox: 4030610

JANE, attractive and young looking 60 something lady, active, outgoing with interesting personality, hoping to meet a kind gent for occasional meetings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425931

OCTAVIA, black seductress, 53yrs, waiting to meet you. Pls text me today. Text Only. Mailbox: 4090520

MALE, 55, looking for no strings attached friendship, with a lady 60-70, any status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426133

MALE, 6ft, brown hair and blue eyes, warm and understanding, likes dining out and cosy nights in, lots of fun, friendship and holidays. Looking for a lady over 48. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426057

CARING sociable, GSOH, slim, attractive, married gent, 67, feels discarded and lonely, seeks like minded lady 60+ for trips out, dining etc. Text only. Mailbox: 5082918

SIX foot guy, mature, looking for someone special to spend some quality time with. Please leave me a message I would love to hear from you! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420163

MALE, 70s, would like to meet slim lady 60 plus. Text only. Mailbox: 4505135

JACKIE, 56yrs, attractive lady who is lots of fun seeks like-minded gent for nights in, days out and much more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424491

SUE, 60s lady, calling all gents who seek a mature solvent stylish lady. I can wine and dine you, you will have a nice time, call or text me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424781

JEAN, mature lady, genuine with many hobbies, slim, blonde and attractive. WLTW interesting gent with GSOH, must be cheerful, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424675

SANDRA, smart, sophisticated lady, young looking 60s, genuine and kind, seeks gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424671

HELEN, mid 50s naughty lady seeks some fun times with gent any age. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424493

CAROL, mid 50s lady, young at heart, attractive and sexy (so I'm told!) Give me a call if you are a gent with GSOH. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424783

PROFESSIONAL gentleman, 64, widowed, own house, loves holidays abroad, reading, eating out, eating in and shows. WLTW a lady of similar age to share interests and happy times together hopefully leading to lasting relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425787

HELLO, mature gentleman looking for a lady who is caring, likes holidays, karaoke, meals out, country walks and cinema. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425401

GUY, 50, 6ft tall, calm and kind, good company, seeking lovely lady for good times and fun and loving. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425369

BARRY, 50, 6ft 4ins, well built, divorced gent, looking to date calm and kind lovely lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421195

CHRIS, 49yrs honest gent seeks lady 45-55 for socialising, friendship, maybe leading to romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425345

MALE 50 seeks mature, home loving lady, 60 plus who enjoys cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424683

PETER, sincere solvent gent 70s seeks lady to wine dine, foreign travel, all expenses paid. I would love a travelling companion. Genuine advertiser. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425343

MALCOLM, 60 something gent, own hair and teeth, GSOH, genuine and kind WLTW sincere lady to wine and dine. Please call. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425335

SLIM, 5ft 6 white male WLTW 18 to 42 year old lady for friendship. Text only Mailbox: 5441709

PROFESSIONAL gent, 44yrs, tall, attractive and genuine. Seeks genuine feminine lady for genuine romance. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425333

PIERS, 56yrs, romantic gent WLTW lady to wine, dine, spoil. I'm kind, caring, generous pls call me. Single mums welcome. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425331

GENUINE gentleman, family minded, kind, generous seeks lady 55-75 for dining, wine and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425329

NICE looking 55 year old male WLTW sincere lady, any age, for friendship, outings, holidays abroad etc. Love the sun. Text only. Mailbox: 4922399

DENTAL practitioner, 44, 6ft, slim, athletic build, thick dark hair, blue eyes, loves sports, seeks slim feminine sporty lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425087

EDWARD, 77, looking for a companion South East area of Kent, for holidays, days out, social events, and lots more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423039

TALL, lively old boy, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks tactile lady for company and jolly jaunts. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425021

MALE, 58, wishes to meet attractive female, into music, live bands, cinema and some sports, for nights out socialising and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424979

HI I'm Darren, down to earth guy, lives in Kent, likes Marbaia, looking for someone special to meet and have a laugh with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424951

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421

NICK, mature male, builder, tattoos, plenty of money, looking for discreet meets, no strings in the Kent area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424787

RETIRED, intelligent, Broadstairs widower, GSOH, medium height and build, seeks slim lady for friendship and companionship initially. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424697

59YR old male, likes country walks, pub lunches, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424685

MARTIN trustworthy, warm hearted, loving, reliable male, 45, 6ft, medium build, young at heart, GSOH, seeks female, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424681

SLIM, 5ft 6 white male WLTW 18 to 42 year old lady for friendship. Text only Mailbox: 5441709

MALE, 55, looking for no strings attached friendship, with a lady 60-70, any status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426133

MALE, 6ft, brown hair and blue eyes, warm and understanding, likes dining out and cosy nights in, lots of fun, friendship and holidays. Looking for a lady over 48. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426057

CARING sociable, GSOH, slim, attractive, married gent, 67, feels discarded and lonely, seeks like minded lady 60+ for trips out, dining etc. Text only. Mailbox: 5082918

PROFESSIONAL gent, 44yrs, tall, attractive and genuine. Seeks genuine feminine lady for genuine romance. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425333

PIERS, 56yrs, romantic gent WLTW lady to wine, dine, spoil. I'm kind, caring, generous pls call me. Single mums welcome. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425331

GENUINE gentleman, family minded, kind, generous seeks lady 55-75 for dining, wine and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425329

NICE looking 55 year old male WLTW sincere lady, any age, for friendship, outings, holidays abroad etc. Love the sun. Text only. Mailbox: 4922399

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CARING sociable, GSOH, slim, attractive, married gent, 67, feels discarded and lonely, seeks like minded lady 60+ for trips out, dining etc. Text only. Mailbox: 5082918



MARK 48, slim, fit, GSOH, looking for loyal partner for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424677

CARING 55yr old male, widower, 6ft 3ins, WLTW lady, 40-55 for fun and friendship, outings, holidays abroad etc. Love the sun. Text only. Mailbox: 4922399

COLIN, 56, 6ft, medium build, clean and tidy with a tidy beard, I'm after some TLC with no strings adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422359

ANDY, tall attractive male, looking for a naughty female, for fun with no strings attached. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424295

MALE, 52, quiet nature, likes coastal walks, cinema, reading, WLTW lady for friendship and maybe romance. East Kent area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424211

RICHARD, 64, n/s, from Kent, medium build, clean shaven, likes classic cars, days out, meals out, boot fairs, most things, would like to meet a lady for company and to share each others interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424207

SIMON, 29yrs, gay curious, seeking older gent for new experiences, must be discreet as I live at home. Text Only: Mailbox: 4196422

EASY going guy, 68, likes walks, books, seeks N/S guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414143

ROB, bi-curious male, 55, seeks likeminded male, crossdresser/TV. Must be discreet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426287

FEMALE seeking genuine straight female for laynights, out to meet socially for drinks/coffee. Text only to Mailbox No: 4748240

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Play delivers interpretation of soldier's life at home after war

By Emily King
emily.king@archant.co.uk

A PLAY that challenges mental health, arrives in Canterbury and Folkestone in June and July.

Shell Shock delivers a poignant yet comic interpretation of one soldier's struggle with life back on civvy street following tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This one-man play has been adapted for the stage by Tim Marriott, from the book Shell Shock the Diary of Tommy Atkins by Iraq veteran Neil Watkin (writing as Neil Blower).

The script mixes emotionally charged scenes with observations of everyday life – a dreaded trip to Ikea, a seemingly mundane post office queue, and a romantic break with his girlfriend.

Developed as a performance to address stigma and barriers to care, this interpretation of the emotional ups and downs of post-traumatic stress disorder, appeals to everyone who has been through some sort of life trauma.

General Sir Mike Jackson, retired British Army officer and one



POIGNANT: The story is sad yet comic at the same time

of its most high-profile generals since the Second World War, said: "A vivid and compassionate portrayal of an ex-soldier having to cope with post-traumatic stress syndrome, and highlights just how important the work is, of charities such as Combat Stress."

Staged with the support from the UK government's LIBOR fund, this production starts its tour ahead of Mental Health Awareness

week, May 8 -14.

Shell Shock is produced by Smokescreen Productions in association with The Sussex Armed Forces Network and Anglia Ruskin University and supported by service charities such as Help For Heroes, The Royal British Legion and Combat Stress.

The production features loud noises and flashing images. The script features some strong lan-

guage and the subject matter - depression, violence, flashbacks, suicide - could be upsetting but is not dwelt on and largely treated in contextual humour.

The show is coming to Canterbury's Gulbenkian on June 12, and Folkestone's Tower Theatre on July 28.

For tickets visit thegulbenkian.co.uk or towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk

Kat's out of the panto bag

CHURCHILL Theatre, Bromley has announced EastEnders' Jessie Wallace will lead the cast in this year's pantomime, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs from December 2-31.
Visit churchilltheatre.co.uk



Craig adds second date

HE famously takes people for drinks on Tuesdays, but on July 11, Craig David will spend his evening playing at Rochester Castle. It will be the singer's second date at the venue following demand for tickets after his gig on July 13 sold out in just 10 minutes.
For tickets visit castleconcerts.co.uk

Watson will jazz up night

JAZZ singer Russell Watson has been announced as a headliner for the Rye International Jazz and Blues Festival at Tonbridge Castle on July 9.
For tickets visit ryejazz.com or assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk



Messages from beyond

MEDIUM Tony Stockwell is bringing his 'special gift' to Dartford's Orchard Theatre on May 23. The psychic of 25 years claims to bring messages of comfort to those who need to hear that a friend can still be with them.
For tickets visit orchardtheatre.co.uk



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Rising from extinction

DARE to experience the dangers and delights of Dinosaur World when dinosaurs come to life on stage in Dartford from May 5-6.

For tickets visit the theatre's site at orchardtheatre.co.uk



Lion King goes big outside

BRING a picnic and join the open air cinema under the stars to watch Disney's Lion King.

The film will be shown on the south side of the lake, at the site of the old outdoor theatre, at Kearsney Abbey, near Dover, on May 26.

For tickets visit lunacinema.co.uk or kearsneyparks.co.uk/cinema

Coming-of-age comedy

COMEDIAN Robert White presents a tale of a 'confused homosexual's abusive 'beard' situation generates autistic freak-out' at Deal's Astor Theatre on May 11.

For tickets visit theastor.org



Marlowe pays tribute

TRIBUTES have been paid to actor Tim Pigott-Smith, who passed away last week, by Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre.

He was due to appear there on stage in Death of a Salesman in June.

Marlowe theatre director, Mark Everett, said: 'All our thoughts are with his family and his many friends.'

Babe is 'truly magical' says puppetry director

By Emily King

emily.king@archant.co.uk

CHILDREN'S show Babe, The Sheep-Pig is coming to Dartford in May.

When Babe arrives at Hogget's Farm he is taken in by the trusty sheep-dog Fly and discovers a talent for herding.

With the help of his adopted mum, the polite piglet soon wins over the most suspicious of sheep. But can a small pig make it in a dog's world, and when his farm-yard friends are in trouble can Babe save the day?

Already a big hit in its big screen 1995 version, KoS spoke with Matthew Forbes, the puppetry director behind the show to find out how he got into puppetry, and how the animals of Hogget's Farm are brought to life.

"I trained as an actor at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, specialising in collaborative and devised theatre," he said. "This still had all of the elements of a classical actor's training, but with a focus on more contemporary styles of theatre."

"Inspired by companies such as Complicite, DV8 and Blind Sum-



mit, the course gave me a huge insight into a more visual approach to theatre making. I think this training helped me secure a place in the National Theatre's hit War Horse."

He added: "The performers do an incredible job of bringing the story's puppets to life."

"Babe, our hero, is a fully articulated puppet; he blinks, walks, talks and even wiggles his snout. He totally steals the hearts of our audience, he's adorable and brought to life by the entire company."

Speaking of why families should see Babe, The Sheep-Pig, Matthew added: "The show is truly magical, the puppets are beautiful and the cast are incredibly talented. Watching Babe struggle and overcome the challenges that are thrown his way is really inspiring."

"Children and adults will be on the edge of their seats, following Babe's journey, willing him on to succeed."

The show will be at Dartford's Orchard Theatre from May 25-28.

For tickets visit orchardtheatre.co.uk.



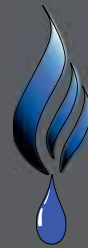
EXPERIENCED: Matthew Forbes worked on War Horse



UNIQUE: The whole show is performed by puppeteers

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Compact clematis make a grand entrance

Hannah Stephenson speaks with expert grower Raymond Evison about his Chelsea showstoppers...

HE'S spent more than five decades searching for, breeding and developing some of the world's best clematis.

Expert grower Raymond Evison is now looking for maximum impact with his latest Chelsea showstopper.

Showing me around his clematis nursery on the Channel Island of Guernsey, the framework is already in place.

It's a seashore scene featuring metal frames which will be adorned with 'waves' of white and blue clematis. More than 2,000 plants are being grown for the exhibit.

It's likely you will have passed some of Evison's compact clematis in your quality local garden centre. Indeed,

his nursery produces more than two million of these climbing plants a year which are exported all over the world - China and Japan are particularly fond of his blooms.

Over the years, his business - like him - has gone through peaks and troughs.

Suffering in the recession, four years ago Evison sold his farm and home to plough money into the business to keep it afloat, and has fought his own personal battles with bowel and prostate cancer.

Anyone else might have thrown in the towel, but not Evison. And now business is on the up again.

"I never considered giving up," he reflects. "We now have new markets in China, a trial order has gone to



BEAUTIFUL: A white clematis Kitty

South Korea and the US is growing."

Some 85% of his clematis are the new, more compact varieties, ideal for those with small spaces or who want to grow really floriferous plants in pots.

"The process started in 1994-5. We could see that people would have smaller gardens and less time for gardening and so we thought it was important to breed and develop more compact clematis that would flower for longer and give better value for money."

The ones grown specifically for containers are compact, with more branches and more flowers per stem. You will see flowers near the base of the plant as well as at the top of it.

"If you look at some of the old cle-

matis varieties, they will have a solitary single flower on the end of a stem. Our clematis flower up and down the stems."

While historically timing and method of pruning has depended on the type of clematis you grow - type 1, 2 or 3 - the compact ones are less complicated. Most need pruning in late winter or early spring, cutting all stems back to 15-22cm (6-9in) above soil level.

Three new Evison varieties are being launched at Chelsea this year - Sacha, a mid-deep blue, a double red called Charmaine and a white type called Kitty, named after a young leukaemia sufferer, the niece of a friend of Evison, launched in conjunction with the Anthony Nolan Trust.

Opera's revenge tale

OPERA director Ellen Kent is back in Dartford again, this time producing Verdi's Nabucco, on May 7.

Nabucco is a tale of revenge, destruction and jealousy, set against the backdrop of the Hebrews being forced from their homeland into exile.

Verdi wrote this opera as a cry against the tyranny of the world.

For tickets visit orchardtheatre.co.uk

Cinema's castle shows

FROM July 14-16, Tonbridge Castle will host the Luna Cinema when it shows La Land, Mamma Mia, and Ghostbusters.

This is the third season the castle has played host to the big screen, with sell-out screenings in 2015 and 2016.

Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased online at www.thelunacinema.com or from Tonbridge Castle Gateway by calling 01732 770929

Her Majesty's show

COMEDIAN Rachel Fairburn is on Deal's Astor Theatre stage on May 11 with her show, Her Majesty.

Every family needs strong female role models, problem is there's too many in Rachel's clan.

They aren't just strong, they're the matriarchs of the matriarchy. It's no wonder that all her heroes are men.

For tickets visit theastor.org

Dagenham meets Kent

DARTFORD Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society (DAODS) is revving up rehearsals for its upcoming production of the British musical Made in Dagenham coming to Dartford's Orchard Theatre from April 26-29.

Inspired by a true story and based on the 2010 hit movie, Made in Dagenham is a musical comedy about friendship and love.

For tickets visit orchardtheatre.co.uk



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Luxembourg? Seven reasons to say hello

If you're looking for inspiration for a spring weekend break or holiday, why not look to the Duchess of Cambridge's travel plans for inspiration? suggests Sam Wylie-Harris.

She's preparing to visit Luxembourg next month, to join the celebrations as it marks 150 years of independence – which, naturally, means this tiny landlocked country has been thrown into the spotlight.

Cited as one of the safest countries in the world, with an excellent public transport system (not that the Duchess will have to worry about that), the brilliant-value Luxembourg Card allows unlimited use of the public transport system and free admission to most of the grand duchy's main attractions.

Here are seven reasons to add Luxembourg to your must-see list...

1. Gastronomy

It's bordered by three culinary giants – France, Germany and Belgium – so you won't have to search far to find a good meal on your trip. Regional menus mingle with haute cuisine (the city boasts 11 Michelin-starred restaurants), but don't miss out on the sauerkraut, bratwurst, local potato



pancakes and apple-based desserts.

2. A vine time

You can take a vineyard tour along the Moselle valley, where the mild climate and spectacular hilly vineyards produce some of our favourite wines, such as riesling, pinot noir and chardonnay. The quality is excellent and they even have their own Cremant de

Luxembourg, the delicious local fizz, to wash down with friture (small fried fish from the Moselle river).

3. Stay connected

If you can't switch off and hate the thought of being out of touch, the city has free wi-fi everywhere, so you don't have to worry about being stranded without the internet. However, if you want to visit the

quaint countryside, plan ahead, as it may not be the same story.

4. Don't need to learn the lingo

Practically everyone speaks English. Luxembourgish is the national language but French and German are widely spoken too, and as it's so accessible from anywhere in Europe, most people are multilingual.

5. Set your sights

Along with being one of the most charming places in Europe to visit, the city's Old Quarters and fortifications are a designated World Heritage Site.

It's a bustling and cosmopolitan city, and a lot of the sights and attractions are in the Old Town, which is mainly pedestrianised. Head to the Grund quarter, which follows the flow of the Petrusse river, to get a feel of the neighbourhood and local history.

6. Walk this way

Luxembourg offers a brilliant walking experience. With so many hiking, trails and tracks to explore, make sure to pack your walking boots.

7. Short stopover

You can easily see lots of beautiful things in a day or two. As it's slightly smaller than the county of Dorset, you could also, if you wanted, swing by one of Luxembourg's neighbours during a short trip. After taking in a medieval castle, forest and a wine tour of Remich in the south, for instance, you could hop over to France!

■ www.visitluxembourg.com/en



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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Pay attention at the back!

IN brief reply to the alt-fan club re: climate change [KoS, ad naseum]:

On S Reeves's question, there have been 20 ice age and inter-glacial periods over the last three million or so years beginning after a landbridge formed in central America.

This and the regular orbital and planetary polar 'wobble' cycles are the basic drivers of such periods not carbon emissions as such.

Had man though not greatly raised CO2 levels in just 150 or so years we would be beginning to enter the next natural ice age but instead we've delayed it as Potsdam's Prof Ganopolski observed.

D Hedges starts well, but needs to avoid veering into wild speculation and stick to facts such as that whilst man's climate induced change has long evidence, the 'dark matter' theory remains unproven as not yet directly seen.

Colin Bullen really needs to understand the carbon cycle to which end I refer him, and all, to Nasa's Earth Observatory site for one. The rest is his usual litany of bogus 'alternative facts', for which he cannot even give any sources because he knows they're all from climate denier ones, paid for by mainly fossil fueled big businesses, and which have long been debunked.

Otherwise, whilst some very moderate warming might help some crops and species etc it damages others. Sadly though, even the Paris accords are not likely to hold warming to below or at a two degree centigrade rise, thus far more damage; and indeed conflicts; than help will occur without much greater efforts.

So I'll just return to my Easter fairtrade tea and copy of Nature Geoscience, whilst watching as Mr Bullen's Ukip continue to collapse around him.

Ray Duff,
Folkestone

Global warming is good, isn't it?

RAY Duff [KoS, letters last week] avers that we will skip a glacial cycle; well, thank goodness for that. He says that we are postponing the next ice age for 50,000 years: even better!

Does Mr Duff understand what happens when the earth suffers a fall in temperature? Let's not speculate, let's go back just a few hundred years to the 'Little Ice Age': two cold periods in the 15th and 17th centuries. Crops did not ripen, there was widespread famine and starvation, wars and civil unrest. Europe lost more than a half of its population.

Circumstantially, this is what Mr

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Wake up folks, global warming is due to us

IT IS disappointing to see yet again this newspaper publish letters of such unutterable nonsense about global warming, let alone two of them.

No, the Earth categorically is not "continuing to cool" as wrongly asserted by Edward Baker.

Last year was the hottest year on record according to Nasa, the US agency National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the UK's Met Office. They also confirm that 16 of the 17 hottest years recorded have all been since the year 2000.

Phil Granger is right to say that many factors could warm the Earth, but science has shown that no factor is as potent over the long term as the build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The records show near unanimous correlation between the peaks and troughs of atmospheric CO2 and similar behaviour in temperatures over many hundreds of thousands of years. This is corroborated by what we know about the physics of CO2, which means we

understand it to be a greenhouse gas which captures heat from the Earth and keeps it warmer than it would otherwise be for a planet at such a distance from its Sun.

The earth periodically absorbs and emits CO2 keeping it roughly in balance. That's why the graphs we see show CO2 and temperatures spike and fall from year to year. But atmospheric CO2 content is unquestionably rising according to those same graphs, and it correlates with the period of human industrialisation. The earth cannot absorb the extra CO2 entering the atmosphere.

Those seeking to deny man made global warming are up against an incontrovertible mountain of evidence. For the views of these people to be correct they need to overturn 300 years of scientific understanding. If we don't radically reduce our reliance on fossil fuels then we'll leave a catastrophic legacy to our grandchildren.

Ben Murphy
Sittingbourne

Duff considers ideal. He may yet get it as the earth is still cooling.

Edward Baker,
Tunbridge Wells

Get domestic trains moving

YOUR article on renewal of the Southeastern train franchise [KoS, last week], gives most prominence to the wishes of suburban commuters between west Kent and London.

However, passengers from east Kent also have urgent needs.

In my view, the top priority is for new 12-coach trains that will travel non-stop between Ashford International and Stratford International as fast, just over 180 miles per hour, as the international trains. Every minute saved on these journeys will generate extra traffic and boost local economic development.

If domestic trains travel as nearly as possible at the same speed as the international ones, this should increase line capacity so that more high-speed trains can be run between London and east Kent.

Frederic Stansfield,
Ramsgate

Forget HS2 get crossing built

I AM a firm believer that public money should be spent where the greatest good can be effected on the greatest number of people.

Comparing the benefit that will derive to travellers on the planned HS2 and its cost of £60 billion - and rising, with the opportunity which is being lost to the millions of cross-Thames drivers, I see a complete failure of this test.

Ralph Steerpike,
Tunbridge Wells

Tolls could fund another tunnel

THERE is a lot of talk about spending money on infrastructure projects, so if they can build a tunnel from west London to east London, why not a tunnel from the Swanley motorway junction to the A13 in Essex? The Dartford tolls could pay for it.

Of course as this would be too radical for the powers that be, then perhaps they could spend the money from the tolls on mending the 1,001 pot holes on the south east's roads.

P Hull,
Hoo

Stop ignoring us in east Kent

THERESA May has stated that there are no, 'no go areas' in England for the Tory party; well she had better get her sat nav out and turn her government limousine towards east Kent

This month, Department for Communities and Local Government managed to pour £9m via its coastal community fund into the economy of Dorset, that well known centre of social deprivation. Only two towns got anything in the south east - Hastings and Queenborough. Everyone else got zilch.

KCC, apart from funding a bit of Turner Contemporary, has closed, reduced or centralised every service it could lay its sticky hands on.

Selep is worse still; it's a monster based in Essex and virtually unknown in east Kent unless you own a business park or are a developer.

The moral of all this is that the Tory party has run Kent since God was a boy and in some places they have made a right old mess of it.

They cannot blame the dastardly socialists or the non-existent Liberals and Greens for their iniquities; they have been masters of their own destiny for decades and now some long forgotten chickens are beginning to come home to roost.

George Noakes,
Dover

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.

- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to

East

people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.
kent-life.co.uk kentnews.co.uk



Penshurst Place
by **Greg Salmon** from
New Ash Green

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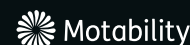
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*2017 C-HR Icon 5 door Coupe FWD 1.2 VVT-i Manual at £595 Advance Payment. Model shown is C-HR Dynamic 5 door Coupe FWD 1.2 VVT-i Manual at £1,795 Advance Payment, AYGO x-press 5 door 1.0 VVT-i x-shift at Nil Advance Payment, Auris Icon 5 door 1.6 D-4D Manual at £95 Advance Payment, Auris Touring Sports Icon 5 door 1.2T VVT-i Manual at £895 Advance Payment and Verso Icon 7-Seat 1.6 V-matic Manual at £295 Advance Payment. Subject to availability. Please note that a total of 60,000 miles over three years are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme. Offer valid between 1st April and 30th June 2017. Available as part of the Motability Contract Hire Scheme.

C-HR Dynamic 5 door Coupe FWD 1.2 VVT-i Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 38.1 (7.4), Extra Urban 55.4 (5.1), Combined 47.8 (5.9). CO₂ Emissions 135g/km. AYGO x-press 5 door 1.0 VVT-i x-shift. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 56.5 (5.0), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 68.9 (4.1). CO₂ Emissions 95g/km. Auris Icon 5 door 1.6 D-4D Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 74.3 (3.8), Combined 65.7 (3.8). CO₂ Emissions 110g/km. Auris Touring Sports Icon 5 door 1.2T VVT-i Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 47.9 (5.9), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 58.9 (4.8). CO₂ Emissions 112g/km. Verso Icon 7-Seat 1.6 V-matic Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 53.3 (5.3), Extra Urban 68.9 (4.1), Combined 62.8 (4.5). CO₂ Emissions 119g/km. All mpg and CO₂ figures quoted are sourced from official EU regulated laboratory test results. These are provided to allow comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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motoring reviews in...

KENT LIFE

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HIT: From the Duster, above, to the big hit Stepway, left, to the Sandero below and the Logan, bottom, Dacia is proving hugely popular for parent company Renault



Dacia's simple equation that sums up its success

IT'S no surprise that Romanian budget brand Dacia has prospered in Britain, post-Brexit uncertainty being just the latest blow to flaky consumer confidence here.

But it's how Dacia has surged since arriving in 2103 that is confounding motor industry watchers.

The Renault-owned brand's key pitch was price, albeit with spartan specification, so the Sandero supermini became the UK market's cheapest new car at £5,995, a price that remains pegged, four years on. The Duster 4x4 also stood out, priced from £8,995.

Faced with such bargains, it was assumed that cash-strapped customers – used car buyers in the past probably – would simply jump at such bargains and 'run 'em into the ground' as happened a few decades earlier with other East European brands such as Lada, Yugo and Dacia's own pre-Renault incarnation.

The motoring press also assumed that Renault, which had been going through a troubled phase in the UK, might find its own volumes cannibalised by its fledgling sister brand and yet it has just posted some of its best sales figures.

Little else of the Dacia scenario has happened either, except that many Dusters have indeed been bought as rugged runabouts to live and die on the farm.



But most Dacia customers have adopted a conventional three-year replacement cycle, often via a PCP (Personal Contract Plan), and the chosen cars are mid or high-specification rather than the entry models with the headline cut-price tags.

Furthermore, the best-selling Dacia of all is not the bargain basement Sandero, but its pumped up

– and necessarily dearer – SUV-style sister, the Sandero Stepway. Indeed, so successful is the Stepway that the same treatment has now been applied to the brand's capacious Logan MCV (Maximum Capacity Vehicle) – a mega-estate that is also the UK's cheapest load lugger (from £6,995) yet costs less than most superminis.

Meet Niro, a surprisingly normal hybrid

Korean brand's first hybrid venture hits the ground running, with good looks and refined handling - posing an immediate threat to Toyota's famous eco star

KOREAN car companies must worry their rivals. In just 10-15 years, sister brands Kia and Hyundai have transformed the quality, image and design of their cars. Last year, both also launched their first hybrids onto the UK market and upstaged the newly-arrived fourth generation Toyota Prius – the world's best known eco car. Talk about hitting the ground running.

Like the Prius, the new Niro – pronounced like the notorious Emperor Nero – sells only as a petrol-electric hybrid. Unlike the Toyota though, this is an eco-friendly car that looks and feels like a normal car.

Kia described the Niro's styling as 'un-hybrid', arguing that attractive design need not be sacrificed for fuel efficiency.

Indeed, until the Niro (from £21,295) arrived I had formed a conspiracy theory that all car companies had signed a pact requiring hybrid and electric models to look ugly and drive poorly, thereby deterring buyers from switching out of conventional models – their primary business.

But the Niro looks just like a smart mid-size five-door crossover, slightly lower yet rivalling that sector's founder



and leader, the Nissan Qashqai.

And if it looks conventional, it also drives so: unlike the rival Prius' 'waftomatic' CVT (continuously-variable transmission) the Niro has a six-speed twin-clutch auto and manual 'box developed specially for it,

delivering seamless changes, and enough response to engage the driver – something the Prius cannot do.

It is mated with a refined 104bhp 1.6-litre petrol engine plus 43bhp electric motor, offering an official combined 74.3mpg and low 88g/km



CO2 emissions.

Batteries for the electric motor are mounted below the rear seat, leaving the boot uncompromised at a generous 427 litres or 1,425 with seats down – the bigger Qashqai offers 430 and 1,585 respectively.

Kia Niro

Price:	from £21,295
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	Hyundai Ioniq

Refinement is excellent, helped by a slippery low drag body nodding more to a family hatchback than higher riding SUV-style crossovers like the Qashqai, though it does wear pseudo off-road cladding on the wheel arches, sills and bumpers.

The Niro is not only pleasing on the eye, but offers decent handling and a comfortable ride, though it clearly isn't designed to be a sportster.

Ignoring the Niro's hybrid status, the car sits between Kia's Ceed hatchback and Sportage SUV, as if the brand wants it to be regarded as a normal option in the line-up.

Four trim levels are offered, but all versions come with decent spec, and don't worry about the longevity of the hybrid tech: the Niro has Kia's usual industry-leading seven-year/100,000-mile warranty.



The award-winning Dacia Sandero

(Don't act like you're not impressed)



New Dacia Sandero = from **£5,995***

Car shown: New Sandero Ambiance SCe 75 with optional metallic paint = £7,490



New Dacia Logan MCV = from **£7,295***

Car shown: New Logan MCV Lauréate TCe 90 with optional metallic paint = £10,990



New Dacia Sandero Stepway = from **£8,995***

Car shown: New Sandero Stepway Lauréate TCe 90 with optional metallic paint = £10,690



New Dacia Duster = from **£9,495***

Car shown: New Duster Lauréate TCe 125 4x2 with optional metallic paint = £13,790

You do the maths

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Dacia range are: urban 35.3 (8.0)-76.4 (3.7); extra-urban 45.6 (6.2)-83.1 (3.4); combined 41.5 (6.8)-80.7 (3.5). The official CO₂ emissions are 155-90g/km. Figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EU legislation and may not reflect real-life driving results.

*Prices shown are manufacturer's recommended retail prices, available on featured new vehicles ordered and registered by 30 June 2017. Prices shown include delivery to dealer, number plates, 20% VAT, 12-month government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee.



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**14/14 Fiat 500 Lounge, Manual,
Petrol, 33,534 Miles, Pan Roof £6,495**



**13/63 Fiat 500 Colour Therapy,
Manual, Petrol, 8,967 Miles, AC £6,495**



**10/10 VW Scirocco GT TDI, Manual,
Diesel, 77,495 Miles, Climate £8,495**

09 09 Ford KA Studio Plus 3 Door Hatchback, Silver, Manual, Petrol, 69,593 Miles, A/C£2,695	14 63 Fiat 500 Lounge 3 Door Hatchback, Grey, Manual, Petrol, 16,485 Miles, A/C£6,495
10 60 Fiat 500 Lounge 3 Door Hatchback, White, Manual, Petrol, 56,114 Miles...£4,295	13 63 Fiat 500 Lounge 3 Door Hatchback, Blue, Manual, Petrol, 14,916 Miles, A/C£6,495
11 11 Peugeot 3008 Active HDi 5 Door Hatchback, Black, Diesel, 78,900 Miles, A/C£4,995	14 14 Fiat 500 S 3 Door Hatchback, White, Manual, Petrol, 14,189 Miles, A/C £6,495
11 61 Fiat 500 Lounge 3 Door Hatchback, Red, Manual, Petrol, 44,104 Miles, A/C£4,995	14 14 Fiat 500 Colour Therapy 3 Door Hatchback, Red, Manual, Petrol, 25,919 Miles, A/C£6,495
13 62 Fiat 500 Street 3 Door Hatchback, Red, Manual, Petrol, 26,077 Miles, A/C£4,995	14 14 Fiat 500 Lounge 3 Door Hatchback, White, Manual, Petrol, 16,838 Miles, A/C£6,495
13 62 Fiat 500 Pop 3 Door Hatchback, White, Manual, Petrol, 30,145 Miles ...£5,295	14 14 Ford Fiesta Zetec 3 Door Hatchback, Red, Manual, Petrol, 33,770 Miles, A/C£6,495
11 61 Vauxhall Astra SE CDTi SS 5 Door Hatchback, Silver, Manual, Diesel, A/C £5,495	11 11 Ford Focus Titanium 5 Door Hatchback, White, Manual, Petrol, 58,475 Miles, Climate£6,495
13 63 Fiat 500 Colour Therapy 3 Door Hatchback, Blue, Manual, Petrol, 32,766 Miles, A/C£5,495	13 13 Fiat 500 S 3 Door Hatchback, Grey, Manual, Petrol, 27,261 Miles, A/C £6,495
12 12 Fiat 500 Lounge 3 Door Hatchback, White, Manual Petrol, 35,262 Miles, A/C£5,495	11 61 Ford Focus Zetec 5 Door Hatchback, Red, Manual, Petrol, 45,830 Miles, A/C£6,500
13 13 Volkswagen Golf Plus SE TSL 5 Door, Hatchback, Black, Manual, Petrol, 103,357 Miles, A/C£5,495	15 64 Fiat 500 Pop 3 Door Hatchback, Green, Manual, Petrol, 7,201 Miles£6,995
10 60 Citroën DS3 Black & White 3 Door Hatchback, White, Manual, Petrol, 51,239 Miles, A/C£5,495	14 63 FIAT 500 S 3 Door Hatchback, White, Manual, Petrol, 11,699 Miles, A/C £6,995
11 60 Fiat 500 Lounge 3 Door Hatchback, Black, Manual, Petrol, 30,697 Miles, A/C£5,695	13 63 Fiat 500 Lounge 3 Door Hatchback, Blue, Manual, Petrol, 15,702 Miles, A/C£6,995
12 12 Fiat 500 Lounge 3 Door Hatchback, Black, Manual, Petrol, 29,349 Miles, A/C£5,995	09 09 Volkswagen Passat CC TSi Coupe Silver, Manual, Petrol, 62,053 Miles, Climate£7,000
14 63 Fiat 500 Colour Therapy 3 Door Hatchback, Blue, Manual, Petrol, 22,799 Miles, A/C£5,995	11 11 Audi A1 Tdi Se 3 Door Hatchback Red, Manual, A/C, 54,627 Miles.....£7,500
14 63 Fiat 500 Colour Therapy 3 Door Hatchback, Blue, Manual, Petrol, 12,826 Miles, A/C£5,995	13 13 Ford Focus Titanium Estate Silver, Auto, A/C, 54,887 Miles£7,695
13 13 Vauxhall Astra SE 5 Door Hatchback, Silver, Auto Petrol, 50,170 Miles, A/C£5,995	12 62 Nissan Duke Acenta Premium DCi 5 Door White, Man, Nav, 40,738 Miles £7,995
13 63 Fiat 500 Lounge 3 Door Hatchback, Red, Manual, Petrol, 21,706 Miles, A/C£6,295	15 64 Vauxhall Corsa Limited Edition Cdti 5 Door, Black, Man, A/C, 17,438 Miles.....£7,995
13 63 Fiat 500 Lounge 3 Door Hatchback, Pink, Manual, Petrol, 30,562 Miles, A/C£6,295	14 64 Nissan Juke Visia 5 Door Hatchback Red, Man, A/C, 11,917 miles£8,495
14 14 Fiat 500 Colour Therapy 3 Door Hatchback, Beige, Manual, Petrol, 26,042 miles, A/C£6,495	12 12 Vauxhall Antara SE CDTi 5 Door Hatchback, Black, Manual, Diesel, 90,000 Miles.....£8,995
	11 11 Ford S-Max Zetec TDCi MPV (Multi Purpose Vehicle), Grey, Manual, Diesel, 67,010 Miles, Pan Roof£9,000
	13 13 Peugeot RCZ HDi GT Coupe Mercury Grey, Manual, Diesel, 53,831 Miles, Nav£9,995

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10/10 BMW X1 Xdrive 18D SE, 46,151 Miles, Climate £9,495



14/63 Mercedes A180 CDI Blueefficiency Sport, Manual, Diesel, 61,240 Miles £12,995

- 10 60 Mini Cooper 3 Door Hatchback, Pepper White, Manual, Petrol, 50,988 Miles, Climate£5,500
- 13 63 Mini One 3 Door Hatchback, Chilli Red, Manual, Petrol, 46,146 Miles, Climate..£7,000
- 13 13 Mini One D 3 Door Hatchback, Pepper White, Manual, Diesel, 33,280 Miles..£7,500
- 12 62 Mini Hatch One Baker Street 3 Door Hatchback, Rooftop Grey, Manual, Petrol, 54,758 Miles, Climate.£7,500
- 12 62 Mini One 3 Door Hatchback, Midnight Black, Manual, Petrol, 5,650 Miles, Climate£8,000
- 13 63 Mini Cooper 3 Door hatchback, Chilli Red, Manual, Petrol, 15,639 Miles, Climate£8,000
- 13 63 Mini Hatch Cooper D Bayswater 3 Door Hatchback, Midnight Black, Manual, Diesel, 59,166 Miles, Leather.....£8,800
- 13 63 Mini Cooper 3 Door hatchback, Chilli Red, Manual, Petrol, 15,980 Miles, Climate£9,000
- 13 63 Mini Cooper D 3 Door Hatchback, British Racing Green, Manual, Diesel, 23,021 Miles, Climate£9,000
- 13 13 Mini One D Baker Street 3 Door Hatchback, Midnight Black, Manual, Diesel 35,729 Miles, Climate£9,000
- 13 13 Mini Cooper 3 Door Hatchback, Chilli Red, Manual, Petrol, 26,795 Miles...£9,000
- 13 63 Mini One D Baker Street 3 Door Hatchback, Rooftop Grey, Manual, Diesel, 22,319 Miles, Climate£9,000
- 13 63 Mini Coupe Cooper S Coupe Eclipse Grey, Manual, Petrol, 20,276 Miles, Climate£9,500
- 11 11 Mini Clubman Cooper S Estate British Racing Green, Manual, Petrol, 46,259 Miles, Climate.....£10,000
- 13 62 Mini Countryman Cooper 5 Door hatchback, Light White, Manual, Petrol, 21,786 Miles, Climate£10,000
- 14 14 Mini Countryman One D 5 Door hatchback, Oxford Green, Manual, Diesel, 41,316 Miles, Climate£10,000
- 13 13 Mini Roadster Cooper S Convertible Midnight Black, Manual, Petrol, 27,121 Miles, Leather.....£11,000
- 12 61 Mini Cooper S 3 Door Hatchback, Eclipse Grey, Auto, Petrol, 24,959 Miles, A/C£11,000
- 15 15 Mini Cooper D 5 Door Hatchback, Electric Blue, Manual, Diesel, 20,530 Miles, Nav£12,000
- 15 65 Mini Cooper D 5 Door Hatchback, Midnight Black, Manual, Diesel, 9,447 Miles Nav£13,000

- 12 62 BMW 1 Series 116D Effiientdynamic 5 Door Hatchback, Black, Manual, Diesel, 118,007 Miles, Nav.....£7,900
- 11 61 BMW 3 Series 318D Exclusive Edition Estate Silver, Manual, Diesel, 71,214 Miles, Leather£8,000
- 09 09 BMW 1 Series 118D M Sport Convertible Space Grey, Manual, Diesel, 58,500 Miles, Climate£9,000
- 13 13 BMW Series 316 D SE 4 Door Saloon, Grey, Manual, Diesel, 74,234 Miles, Climate£10,000
- 12 62 BMW 1 Series 120D Exclusive Edition Convertible Grey, Manual, Diesel, 73,126 Miles, Leather.£10,500
- 12 62 BMW 3 Series 320D Effiientdynamic 4 Door Saloon, White, Manual, Diesel, 57,649 Miles, Climate£10,900
- 11 61 BMW 5 Series 520D Effiientdynamics 4 Door Saloon, Black, Manual, Diesel, 105,697 Miles, Nav£11,000
- 07 07 BMW X5 D SE Estate 7 Seater, Black, Auto, Diesel, 114,869 Miles, Leather £12,000
- 13 13 BMW X1 S DRIVE 20 D Effiientdynamics Estate Alpine White, Manual, Diesel, 52,624 Miles, Climate£13,000
- 12 61 Mercedes C-Class C200 CDi Blueeffiency 4 Door Saloon, Blue, Manual,Diesel, 83,872 Miles, Climate£9,000
- 12 62 Mercedes C-Class C220 DCi Blueeffiency 4 Door Saloon, Aluminium Silver, Auto, 111,525 Miles, Leather£9,500
- 14 63 Mercedes C-Class C220 CDi Blueeffiency Estate Polar White, Auto, Diesel, 104,427 Miles, Nav£11,000
- 09 59 Mercedes E-Class E350 CDi Blueeffiency 4 Door Saloon, Black, Auto, Diesel, 66,285 Miles, Nav£12,000
- 11 11 Mercedes E-Class E220 CDi Blueeffiency 4 Door Saloon, Blue, Auto, Diesel, 91,814 Miles, Nav£12,000
- 11 11 Mercedes E-Class E250 CDi Blueeffiency 4 Door Saloon, Aluminium Silver, Auto, Diesel, 122,627 Miles, Leather£12,000
- 13 63 Mercedes C-Class C220 CDi Blueeffiency 4 Door Saloon, Tenorite Grey, Auto, Diesel, 55,400 Miles, Climate£14,000
- 13 13 Mercedes E-Class E250 CDi Blueeffiency 4 Door Saloon, Palladium Silver, Auto, Diesel, 39,539 Miles, Nav£15,000
- 14 64 Mercedes E-Class E220 CDi AMG Sport 4 Door Saloon, Silver, Auto, Diesel, 15,942 Miles, Nav£20,000
- 14 64 Mercedes CLA 220 CDi Sport 4 Door Saloon, Silver, Auto, Diesel, 19,000 Miles, Climate£22,000

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Mick Webb
Peter Dent

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of application for renewal of a Sex Establishment Licence pursuant to Schedule 3

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

TAKE NOTICE that on 12th April 2017 Christopher Intrieri applied to Maidstone Borough Council for the renewal of a sex establishment licence in respect of

Players Gentlemen's Club, 57, High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1SY

DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION: Mondays to Sundays inclusive from 20.30 to 02.00 hours and on New Year's Eve – 20.30- 03.00

ACTIVITY: sexual entertainment venue

The application may be inspected at the offices of the Licensing Department, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ

ANY PERSON wishing to make objections on the application shall do so in writing at the Council Offices to the Senior Licensing Officer, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ or by e-mail at licensing@maidstone.gov.uk. The grounds of the objection must be stated in general terms. The objection must be received by the Council no later than 10th May 2017

Name: Christopher Intrieri

Organisation: Players,

Address: 57, High Street, MAIDSTONE, KENT ME14 1SY

Date: 12th April 2017

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

MR K. WHAID trading as MITCHAM BUILDING SUPPLIES LTD of MBS House, Eddington Lane, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 5TR is applying to change an existing licence as follows

To keep an extra 5 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at the operating centre at MBS House, Eddington Lane, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 5TR

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

RE: ALAN SHUTTLEWORTH (deceased)

This notice is being posted by the executors of Mr Alan Shuttleworth (deceased) late of 20, Mayfair Avenue, Maidstone, Kent and also of 2, Crittenden Cottages, Gailants Lane, Maidstone, Kent, and latterly of 84, Knight Crescent, Middleton in Manchester.

Alan Shuttleworth was a former member and Troop Leader of the 25th Lanarkshire (6th Motherwell) Boy Scouts and of 'T Troop' Loose Swiss Scout Group.

PURSUANT to the Trustee Act 1925 section 27 NOTICE IS GIVEN to all creditors and others having any claims against or claiming to be beneficially interested in the estate of ALAN SHUTTLEWORTH.

ALAN SHUTTLEWORTH died on the 10th February 2014 and his will was proved in the District Registry of the High Court by the executors named within it.

All creditors and others having any claims against or claiming to be beneficially interested on the estate of ALAN SHUTTLEWORTH are required to send particulars of their claim in writing to the undersigned solicitors, Stephensons Solicitors LLP, whose address is 1st Floor, Sefton House, Northgate Close, Horwich, Bolton, BL6 6PQ (Reference AJG/S73475.3). All correspondence should be marked for the attention of Mr A Gregory and should be sent to those solicitors within a three month period after the date of this advertisement. If no further claims against the estate are intimated within the specified period of 3 months from the date of the advertisement the Executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased among the persons entitled to them having regard only to the claims of which they have notice and shall not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part of them so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands they have not had notice of.

Signed:

Dated:

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

MR K. WHAID trading as MITCHAM BUILDING SUPPLIES LTD of Sarena House, Bredgar Road, Gillingham, Kent ME8 6PL is applying to change an existing licence as follows

To keep an extra 1 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at the operating centre at Sarena House, Bredgar Road, Gillingham, Kent ME8 6PL

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

After Shakey start Byrne ready to roll

Local hero returns to Brands to get season on track after crash

Motorsport

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

SHANE 'Shakey' Byrne will return to his old Kent stomping ground this weekend determined to finally get his season under way after being forced to sit out the opening rounds of the British Superbike Championship following a high-speed smash.

The 40-year-old defending champion from Sittingbourne crashed during the warm-up for the Donington races earlier this month and was forced to sit out two races - leaving him pointless heading to Brands Hatch for what is traditionally one of the highlights of the circuit's calendar.

Opening on Friday, the two main races take place tomorrow (Monday) and could see the five-times champion back in contention.

Shakey said: "I can't wait to get my season well and truly started this weekend; obviously the crash at Donington was far from ideal, but I intend on making up that ground straight away."

"The Indy circuit can always be pretty hectic but as always I have one focus and that is on myself and making sure I am ready to come out fighting for the two race wins."

"The Be Wiser Ducati team have worked so hard over the winter that I need to make amends for missing out at the opening round, and where better to do that, than at my home round."

After testing on Friday, practice Saturday and today's qualifying, Byrne needs to be at the top of his game to get his bid for a sixth title under way.



DETERMINED: Huge crowds set for Brands as Shane Byrne looks to put disappointment of Donington behind him this weekend
Pictures: BSB

Among those he will want to send a message to will be 2014 World Superbike champion Sylvain Guintoli, 2015 arch rival and champion Josh Brookes, plus Donington podium finishers Luke Mossey, Christian Iddon and Glenn Irwin.

The event also features supporting action from the Dickies Supersport

Championship, Pirelli National Superstock 600 and 1000, Hel Performance British Motostar, British Sidecar and the Ducati Trioptions Cup.

Visitors can meet the BSB riders on Monday when there's a free-of-charge pitwalk and autograph session, in addition to a host of other entertainment around the circuit.

Gills facing vital crunch clash with Addicks

Football

A HUGE crowd is set to get behind Gillingham tomorrow (Monday) when Ady Pennock's side make the short trip to The Valley to take on near neighbours Charlton Athletic.

The second game over a busy Easter weekend - the Gills entertained play-off chasing Bristol Rovers on Friday, after we went to press - more than 2,000 away fans are expected to travel to the game.

The original allocation of 1,600 sold-out and another 500 were released on Thursday. And how the team need them in full voice.

A 1-1 draw at home to Millwall last weekend ended a run of four straight defeats which leave the Gills going into the weekend perilously



READY: Ady Pennock

close to getting sucked into the relegation zone.

With Charlton mid-table, and his

side now staring at an anxious end to the season, Pennock knows now is the perfect opportunity for a blood and guts performance to leave the travelling army purring with delight as they head back to Kent tomorrow night.

Defeat, however, and there are just two games left to ensure their safety. And one of those will be a challenging home tie at Fleetwood - who went into the weekend in third place.

Speaking after the Millwall game, Pennock said: "We have to play like that every week for the remainder of the season, we know that. We have showed that against the higher teams we can match them."

The Gills play Charlton at The Valley on Monday - kick-off is 3pm. Some tickets may be available on the gate.

Sport Shorts

» Email tom.pyman@archant.co.uk or call Tom Pyman 01233 653481

Mos play-off triumph ahead of Legends clash

THERE will be a party atmosphere at Gillingham's SilverBlades ice rink on April 23 when the Invicta Dynamos host a special clash against a Legends side, after last week wrapping up a memorable victory to be crowned NIHL Southern play-off champions.

After securing a comfortable 8-3 win in front of their home supporters last Saturday against the Chelmsford Chieftains, the Mos then held off a strong home side rally the following day in Essex. Losing 4-2, it was not enough to wrap up a 10-7 aggregate win.

Now coach Kevin Parrish has the 20th anniversary match at the end of the month to look forward to to draw a curtain on yet another highly successful season.

The Legends game will feature players from across the club's 20 year history take on the Invicta Dynamos of 2016/17 in a one-off match. Confirmed this week were netminder Andy Moffat, defencemen Damien Welch, Phil Chard and Tim Smith and forwards Elliot Andrews, Grant Baxter and Justin Noble.



HAPPY: Celebrating victory



GROUND: South African will hope to dazzle on return for county side

Paceman Parnell goes back to the Spitfire

KENT have added their first overseas player for the season with the signing of South Africa left-arm paceman Wayne Parnell.

The 27-year-old played for Kent in two spells in 2009 and will add more firepower to the county's bowling attack.

Parnell is available for action in the County Championship and Royal London One-Day Cup before returning to international duty.

The left-hander from Port Elizabeth said: "I really enjoyed my time at Kent and I hope to help the side continue their strong start in the County Championship and get off to a flyer in the One Day Cup."

Kent are currently in Hove facing rivals Sussex in the County Championship following a comfortable 334 run against Gloucestershire in their opening fixture.

The Hawk swoops into Crucible

DITTON'S Barry Hawkins faces Tom Ford in the first round of the World Snooker Championship which gets under way this weekend in Sheffield.

The world number seven should be too strong for the 33-year-old from the Midlands, currently ranked 32 in the world, for the tournament opener at the Crucible.

Hawkins will be desperate to go

one better than in 2013 when he reached the final only to lose to an unstoppable Ronnie O'Sullivan. He has reached the final four stage twice since then.

Coached by former Crucible legend Terry Griffiths, Hawkins has already had a strong start to the season with victory in this year's World Grand Prix.

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